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ANOTHER DEPARTURE

Kushwaha quits JD(U), forms new political outfit

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Law to raise the marital age of women not enough

Enforcement issues remain

OPINION » PAGE 9

MAKING THE GRADE

Smriti shines as India ensures a semifinal berth

SPORT » PAGE 15

Biden visits Kyiv, pledges more military assistance

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

U.S. President Joe Biden on Monday made a trip to Kyiv organised in strict secrecy, promising $500 million in fresh arms deliveries and "unwavering" American support ahead of the first anniversary of Russia's invasion.

Air raid sirens rang out across the capital at one point as Mr. Biden walked alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during what was the U.S. President's first visit to the country since Russian troops invaded on February 24, 2022.

"One year later, Kyiv stands. And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands," Mr. Biden said, speaking alongside Mr. Zelensky at the Ukrainian President's official residence, Mariinsky Palace.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 13

Chhattisgarh Congress leaders face ED searches

Party calls it an attempt to disrupt its upcoming plenary session in State capital Raipur; Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel alleges that the BJP is trying to divert attention from the Adani issue

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday searched over a dozen locations at Raipur and Bhilai in Chhattisgarh in connection with the coal levy scam.

Premises belonging to Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer Ramgopal Agarwal, Labour Welfare Board president Sushil Sunny Agarwal, Devendra Yadav, MLA, party spokesperson R.P. Singh and Congress leader Vinod Tiwari were searched.

While in the past, the ED searched premises of, and even arrested, bureaucrats and businessmen in connection with the scam, this is the first time it has knocked on the doors of so many prominent politicians all at once. The Congress accused the BJP government of indulging in "politics of vendetta", with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel questioning the rationale of targeting those who were not even linked to coal transportation. He added that the premises of an MLA from Bilaigarh were searched.

Widespread search: Security personnel outside the residence of a Congress leader during a search by the ED in Raipur. PTI

Questioning the timing of the searches, just days before the 85th plenary session of the Congress to be held in Nava Raipur from February 24 to 26, the ruling Congress called them an attempt to disrupt the upcoming session "where the road map for the 2023 Assembly election and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was to be discussed".

Mr. Baghel alleged that the BJP was nervous because of the success of the recently concluded Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress and was trying to divert attention from the "truth" of the Adani conglomerate (that has seen its share tumbling after a recent report by short-seller Hindenburg Research).

"The Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] says in the Lok Sabha that he towers over others, but [his] keeping mum on Adani [issue] shows that Adani overpowers the Central government and the BJP. Today, when they are continuously conducting raids, it shows that the BJP is scared of the Congress," he said at a press conference in Raipur.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Villagers block highway seeking underpass

MYSURU
Traffic movement on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was blocked at Hanakere in Mandya district of Karnataka for about two hours on February 20 due to a protest by villagers demanding an underpass. » PAGE 2

Kannada director S.K. Bhagavan passes away

BENGALURU
Filmmaker S.K. Bhagavan, 89, one of the last few links to the Rajkumar-era Kannada cinema, passed away owing to age-related ailments in Bengaluru on Monday.

» PAGE 4

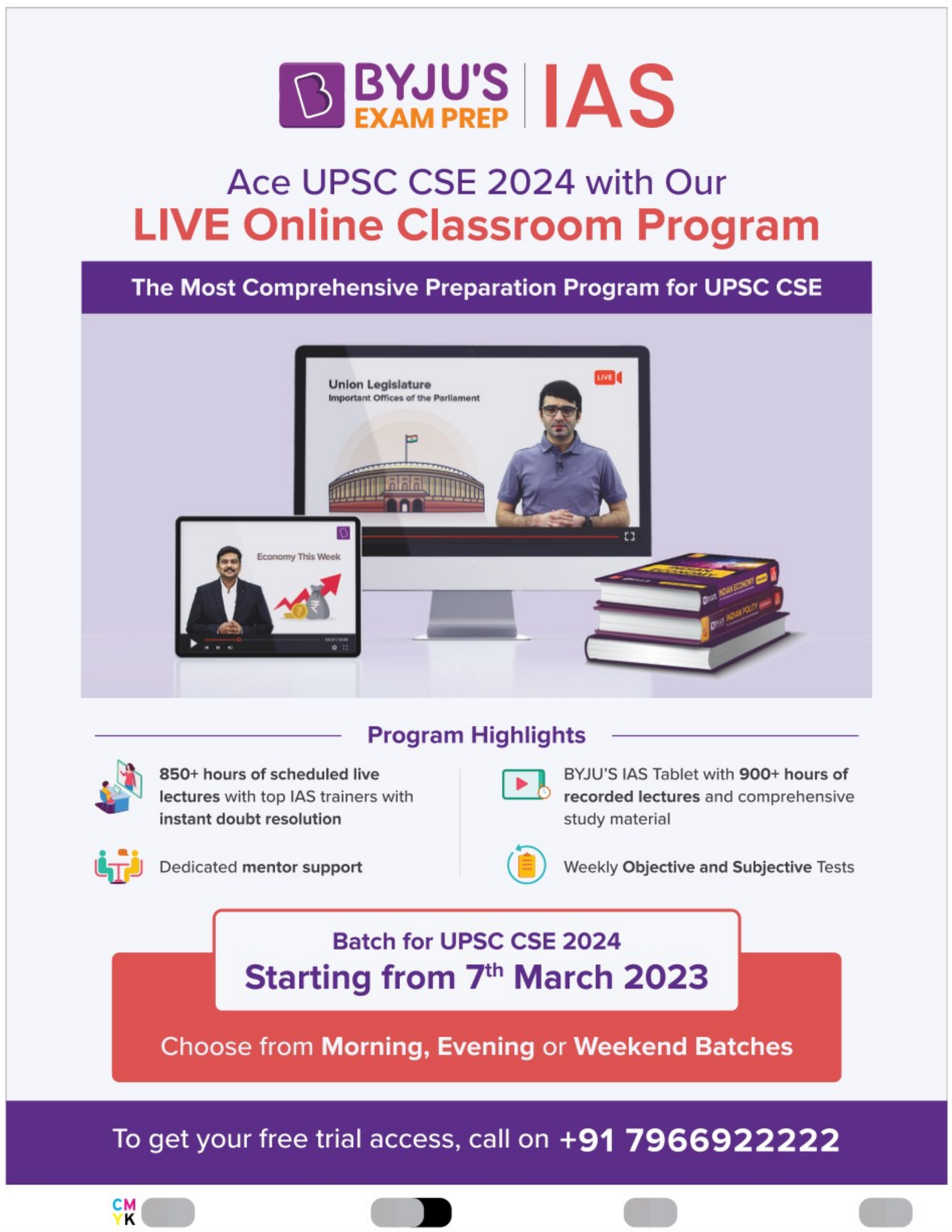
Higher pension: EPFO issues guidelines for employees

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

After several days of discussions, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) issued a circular on Monday to its regional offices with a set of instructions to implement the November 4 Supreme Court verdict on higher provident fund (PF) pension. It lists all the procedures and required documents for existing employees and for those who retired after September 1, 2014 to claim higher pension based on actual salary beyond the prescribed ceiling in the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) of 1995.

Employees can submit the joint option with the employers using the members' section of the EPFO website, which will be made available "soon".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

6,542 The number of guns intercepted by the Transportation Security Administration at airport checkpoints across the U.S. in 2022. The number — roughly 18 per day — was an all-time high for guns intercepted at U.S. airports, and is sparking concern. With the exception of the pandemic-disrupted 2020, the number of weapons intercepted at airport checkpoints has climbed every year since 2010. AP

33.5 In million tonnes, the amount of sugar India is expected to produce in 2022-23, ending in September 2023, according to Mauro Virgino, head of trading intelligence at Alvean. This is a drop from the original prediction of 34 to 34.3 million tonnes. The scaled down production estimates came after crops in top sugar-producing States, Maharashtra and Karnataka, saw falling sugarcane yields as the crops matured early. Reuters

200 In $ million, Pakistan's current account deficit, according to its central bank. This is down by 90% from last year as the rupee's depreciation slowed down imports. In less than a month, the nation's currency has lost more than a quarter of its value against the U.S. dollar. Fuel prices have risen by more than a fifth as the government implemented fiscal measures required to unlocking funds from an IMF bailout. Reuters

996 In ₹ crore, the amount raised by State-owned hydro power giant National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) through unsecured, redeemable, non-convertible, non-cumulative and taxable 7.59% AD series bonds on private placement basis, according to a filing. The bonds are proposed for listing in the Wholesale Debt Market (WDM) segment of BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE). PTI

6.85 In percentage, the retail inflation for farm workers. The retail inflation rose to 6.88% for rural workers in January, due to higher prices of certain food items, according to the Labour Ministry. The inflation readings for farm and rural workers stood at 6.38% and 6.60%, respectively, in December 2022 while in January 2022, the inflation numbers were at 5.49% and 5.74% respectively. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The microbiome link to autism disorders

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the term for a group of neurodevelopmental disorders. Researchers are yet to fully understand the causes of ASD. However, they are beginning to find that a disorder in the gut-brain axis could have a prominent role

PULSE-CHECK

Tony Grace
Joby Pulikkan

'Fix your gut, fix your brain' used to be an underrated idea, but it is gaining in relevance today as more and more research throws light on the role of the community of bacteria living in your gut, that is, the gut microbiome. A healthy gut microbiome is not a panacea but it may be able to help improve the quality of life of individuals with various diseases that lack other proven interventions. Differences in gut microbiome composition have been implicated in several diseases, including Crohn's disease, celiac disease and particularly, autism.

Autism spectrum disorder

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the term for a group of neurodevelopmental disorders. Researchers are yet to fully understand the aetiology of ASD. (Aetiology is the study of factors that cause a condition or disease.) However, they are beginning to find that a disorder in the gut-brain axis could have a prominent role.

According to the WHO, ASD affects one in 100 children. Children with ASD have impaired social interactions, lack verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and display restricted and repetitive behaviours. These characteristics can adversely affect one's cognitive abilities and, over time, diminish one's quality of life. A relatively under-researched aspect of ASD is the gastrointestinal problems associated with a subset of children with ASD. Limited research findings as well as anecdotal evidence indicate the presence of various gastrointestinal problems, like constipation, diarrhoea, flatulence, and bloating, among others, in children with ASD. But even as researchers have proposed several theories to explain the aetiology of ASD, the pathophysiology of the disorder remains largely unknown. (Pathophysiology is the study of a condition's impact on biological processes.) At present, there are no known cures and therapeutic interventions available to treat or reverse ASD.

Studying the link

Increasingly profound exploration of the human microbiome by researchers, aided by advances in gene-sequencing technologies and high-end bioinformatic analysis, is dramatically reshaping our understanding of the connections between human health, diseases, and microbiomes.

The gut microbiome is believed to have a big impact on immune modulation and metabolic activities in the human body. Immune modulation refers, among other things, to the efforts of the immune system to ensure its response is proportionate to a threat. Investigations of the dynamic cross-talk between the gut microbiome and the host environment have revealed potential connections to ASD symptoms. For example, aberrant antigen trafficking through an impaired intestinal barrier could allow these antigens to eventually pass through the barrier surrounding the brain, triggering a chain of events that worsen ASD symptoms.

Some scientists have disputed the significance of the gut microbiome by contending that the microbiome can't cause ASD and therefore its role in the pathophysiology of ASD is limited. But research has shown that even if the gut microbiome doesn't play a causative role, abnormalities in it can challenge a person with toxic metabolites and keep the person from synthesising the metabolites required to produce neurotransmitters involved in cognition, behaviour, mood, and sleep. As a result, 'fixing' the gut in ASD can reduce the toxic burden – including that which moves through the blood-brain barrier – and/or help complete the necessary neurotransmitter synthesis pathways.

Ongoing research

In our own research, we have explored the gut microbiome in children with and without ASD, and have reported several interesting microbial biomarkers in children with ASD. We observed dysbiosis – an imbalance – in the gut microbiome of children with ASD. They had a higher abundance of lactobacillaceae, bifidobacteriaceae, and veillonellaceae bacteria. The fraction of bacteria of the phylum firmicutes was found to be significantly higher in the guts of children with ASD.

We also found an underrepresentation of certain microbes that produce short-chain fatty acids (SCFA), such as faecalibacterium and roseburia, in children with ASD. This supports the hypothesis that a lower level of SCFAs in ASD could lead to an imbalance in brain function and behaviour. This is the source of proposals to introduce these strains of bacteria as a probiotic for children with ASD, to help alleviate common gastrointestinal problems and in turn positively influence cognitive and behavioural functions.

However, since these are emerging areas of study, there are pockets of agreement as well as disagreement in the community; consensus lies in the future.

What can you do?

Reinstating a balance in the gut microbiome and reversing gut dysbiosis among children with ASD could alleviate many problems they face and improve their quality of life. One promising approach to reverse gut dysbiosis is faecal microbial transplantation (FMT), where stool samples from healthy individuals are transplanted into the large intestines of affected children. A small study conducted by Ohio State University in 2017 reported that FMT improved both gastrointestinal and ASD-related symptoms. Since FMT is a cost-effective strategy with low risk, we need to build consensus among all stakeholders – including parents, clinicians, and educators – and create incentives to adopt it. There is also some evidence that gluten-free and casein-free diets can help children with ASD. This could be because some of these children have been found to lack the bacteria that helps break down casein and gluten into metabolites.

In all, the role of diet, prebiotics, probiotics, synbiotics (which combine the benefits of probiotics and prebiotics), and FMT for the efficient management of ASD can be said to be encouraging.

(No part of this article should be construed as medical advice. Please act only in consultation with your physician).

Tony Grace is assistant professor at the Central University of Kerala and adjunct assistant professor, at Kansas State University; Joby Pulikkan is postdoctoral research associate at the University of Virginia.

THE GIST

- According to the WHO, autism spectrum disorder affects one in 100 children. Children with ASD have impaired social interactions, lack verbal and nonverbal communication skills, and display restricted and repetitive behaviours.
- The gut microbiome is believed to have a big impact on immune modulation and metabolic activities in the human body. Immune modulation refers, among other things, to the efforts of the immune system to ensure its response is proportionate to a threat. Investigations of the dynamic cross-talk between the gut microbiome and the host environment have revealed potential connections to ASD symptoms.
- Reinstating a balance in the gut microbiome and reversing gut dysbiosis among children with ASD could alleviate many problems they face and improve their quality of life.

Can we use moon dust to slow down global warming?

Spraying aerosols in the stratosphere, especially radiation-scattering ones such as sulphates, does have a cooling effect. However, scientists warn us about its unintended consequences

Raghu Murtugudde

There is some reason to believe that the 'summerless year' that followed the eruption of Mt. Tambora in 1816 inspired the novels *Frankenstein* and *The Vampyre*. A sufficiently powerful volcanic eruption can spew sulphates and other aerosols into the stratosphere, cooling the air there. This fact has motivated people to artificially do the same thing to slow global-warming.

Moon dust coolers

A recent media buzz on this front is from a paper published in the journal *PLoS Climate* on February 8. Researchers from the U.S. have proposed that billions of tonnes of dust can be launched from the moon to a point in space where the earth's and the Sun's gravitational fields cancel each other out. The dust will thus be 'parked' there, casting a shadow on earth and dimming sunlight to offset carbon emissions.

While aerosols in the stratosphere, especially radiation-scattering ones such as sulphates, do have a cooling effect, let's not forget the consequences of the 1816 eruption. The 'cool' summer sent crop yields plummeting worldwide, leading to disease and starvation. Many climate models have confirmed that dimming the amount of incoming sunlight with stratospheric aerosols will have similar outcomes. Some studies have argued that the resulting drought won't be as harmful and that the GDPs of most countries will be positively affected by such solar radiation management (SRM). But even state-of-the-art climate models are skilled only at simulating the temperature response to changes in solar radiation. These projections are also best at the continental scale and not at the regional scale, which matters when it comes to heatwaves and drought.

Concerns about SRM models

Climate models are still woefully inadequate at estimating the precipitation response to solar radiation perturbations at all scales. Any projections related to changes in rainfall, as a result of blocking sunlight, will be highly uncertain. Therefore, concluding that SRM won't have unintended consequences in the form of drought and crop losses, based on models that can't reliably predict precipitation, would be foolhardy.

Many natural as well as social scientists have expressed grave concerns about SRM science and governance. Who will decide when and where to deploy aerosols, and how much? Who will monitor unintended consequences? If one country conducts an experiment that affects rainfall in another country, who will bear liability? Will there be compensation for the damages caused? We are still struggling with the concept of 'loss and damage' under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, an instrument to compensate countries for the harm caused by climate change. Compensation for the accidental outcomes of SRM will be more contentious. The University of Oxford and the Asilomar Conference have proposed some guiding principles for attempts to geoengineer the climate. These include that those involved must clearly and explicitly report the science and technology of these approaches along with their consequences; deployment and monitoring, verification, and reporting mechanisms should be democratic and inclusive; and stakeholders must agree on compensation mechanisms for any harm beforehand. Finally, a major caveat of the aerosol-loading approach is that there will be a rebound effect once spraying stops and the aerosols are washed out of the atmosphere. So, when the temporary cooling effect is on, we must still reduce emissions. If we don't, the cooling effect will end and the heating period will recommence.

The writer is a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland

THE GIST

- Researchers from the U.S. have proposed that billions of tonnes of dust can be launched from the moon to a point in space where the earth's and the Sun's gravitational fields cancel each other out. The dust will thus be 'parked' there, casting a shadow on earth and dimming sunlight to offset carbon emissions.
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- Many natural as well as social scientists have expressed grave concerns about SRM science and governance.

Villagers block Bengaluru-Mysuru highway seeking underpass

People park bullock carts on highway at Hanakere to press for underpass to facilitate movement of local villagers

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Traffic movement on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was blocked at Hanakere in Mandya district of Karnataka for about two hours on Monday due to a protest by villagers demanding an underpass.

People parked bullock carts on the highway at Hanakere to press for their demand to immediately take up the construction of an underpass to facilitate the movement of local villagers. They threatened to continue their protest till authorities begin construction of an underpass.

"We will continue the protest indefinitely, blocking the main highway. Let traffic ply on the service road," said one of the villagers.

With vehicles piling up on either side of the blocked highway, police appealed to the villagers to vacate the road citing the inconvenience to women and children in the vehicles.

The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway was blocked at Hanakere in Mandya district for about two hours due to a protest by villagers demanding an underpass, on Monday.

Superintendent of Mandya district police N. Yathish reached the spot and appealed to villagers to end their protest.

Officials from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), who arrived at the protest venue, said a proposal for construction of an underpass is pending before the Authority. "Construction of the underpass will begin as soon as the project is approved," an NHAI official informed the protesters.

But, the protesters refused to budge saying they had given a representation to the authorities on the need for construction of an underpass at Hanakere more than eight months ago.

When the protesters refused to yield, police forcibly evicted them and cleared the highway for movement of traffic.

"The villagers had not taken permission for the protest," said a Mandya district police official, who added that 10 people leading the protest were arrested, and later released.

Mysuru MP Prathap Simha said the demand for an underpass, made by the Karnataka State Farmers' Association as well as the BJP, had been communicated to the NHAI.

The matter will be resolved after construction of the road is completed, he said.

Azim Premji varsity students protest against shuttle fees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The postgraduate (PG) students of Azim Premji University (APU) have been protesting for eight days now, alleging that the university is forcing them to pay a mandatory shuttle fee of ₹8,500 per semester.

The shuttle service ferries students from their KGA residences outside the campus to the campus. Students have alleged that the APU has made it compulsory for even non users of the service to pay the fees.

"It is physically laborious to walk from the residences to the campus and some of our seniors had faced sexual harassment on that stretch and that was why they demanded these shuttles. However, when we sought admissions at the university, there was no mention of this shuttle fee in the fee structure mentioned on the website or anywhere else. We were only made known about it when we got our offer letters," a PG student said.

The students said that with many studying there on 100% scholarships, it was difficult for them to pay ₹17,000 a year for shuttle fees and called the rule "unfair" and "unjust". They added that the rule had caused stress to the students.

They further said that while a part of the security deposits of scholarship students were deducted for shuttle fees, the assistantship stipend of students, who worked at the university during end-semester breaks, was also deducted for the same.

After boycotting classes last week, on Monday the students tied black scarves in protest. "For the first week, we did not get any response to our protests. Just today (Monday), the Vice Chancellor said that a meeting will be held on Tuesday to discuss the issues," the students said.

The students are demanding a complete rollback of shuttle fees and the return of fees which has already been deducted.

When *The Hindu* reached out to university about the issue, it said: "Azim Premji University has no comments to offer at this point".

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients one Mr.Sudarshan Rajapur and Mrs. Meenakshi Sudarshan Rajapur have intending to purchase the properties i.e Land bearing Sy No.192/14 (old No.192/3) measuring 2.08 guntas and Portion of Property bearing Sy No.192/15 measuring 1 Guntas both are situated at Dommasandra village, Sarajapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru urban District. which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule property, from one N.Srinvasa Reddy S/o Late Nanjundappa R/at Thigala Chowdadenahalli village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 562125, who claims to have the valuable marketable right, title and interest, free from all encumbrances or claims of any nature, whatsoever and in peaceful possession of the Schedule property. If any persons have any claims, right, title or interest in the Schedule property or any objections to the proposed sale, the same may be communicated to the undersigned along with supportive documents within 15 days from this day. If no tenable objection share received with the said period, our client will proceed with the transaction deeming that there are no such claims or objections in respect of the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of land property bearing Sy No.192/14 (old No.192/3) measuring 2.08 guntas and another portion of Property bearing Sy No.192/15 measuring 1 Guntas both are situated at Dommasandra village, SarajapuraHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru urban District having common boundaries and bounded on the:

East by : C.Muniraju's property
West by : Property belonging to Rajappa
North by : Chinnappareddy's and Jayapal Reddy property
South by : Bengaluru Sarjapura main road

CHANDRASHEKAR.C, ADVOCATE
B-107, 'BRIGADE MAJESTIC',
26 KaviKalidasa (1stMain) Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore-560 009.
Mob:9449212739

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **G. Ramesha s/o Anantha Marakala** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein under, from **Sanna Nanje Gowda s/o late C. Manjappa** (seller/owner).The seller/owner represents and warrant that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the owner/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of residential **site no.416,** Block 04, Khata no.1630, formed in converted old sy no.21, new sy no.121 and 122, vide conversion order no. B.DIS.ALN.SR.26/1972-73, dated 17.3.1975, EKhata: 150200400200102431, situated at **Yarrappanahalli Village Residential Layout, of Kannur Grama Panchayat, Bidarahalli Hobli Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalo**re, measuring East to West 30ft, North to South 41ft in all 1230sqft and bounded

East by : Site no.415, West by: Site no.417, North by : Road, South by : Private Property

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere
Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 21-02-2023

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BIDAR

NO:EE/PWD//Dvn/Bdr/ JE-3/ 5054/2022-23/4726 Date: 17.02.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Divn. Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works i.e works indent No KPWD/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT165212,& 165195 Amount for the work is Minmum Rs. 321.85 Lakhs and Maximum Rs: 336.25 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e.procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in .

Tenders must be submitted through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours up to dt: 24.02.2023 Tenders will be opened on dt: 27.02.2023 Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

DIPR/Bidar/477/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Bidar.

Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
District Health and Family Welfare Department, P.B. Road, Chitradurga.
(Health and Family Welfare Services)

No.: C(1)/02/2022-23 Date: 17.02.2023

Notification

Inviting applications from eligible candidates for appointment on outsource basis for 1 year or until appointment of permanent Doctors, whichever is first, for posts of 15 doctors with various specialty, vacant at Community Health Centres and 14 General Duty Medical Officers vacant at Primary Health Centres under the jurisdiction of District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga. Interested candidates should submit the copies of Bio-data, Educational Qualification, Reservation and other documents along with check list issued by the office to the Office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga from 20.02.2023 up to 10.03.2023 (Last Day) within 5.30 PM. Applications received after the fixed period will not be accepted for any reason. For further information contact the Office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga. Terms and conditions are applicable. 1) Monthly Remuneration for Specialty Doctors: Rs. 80,000/-. 2) Monthly Remuneration for General Duty Medical Officers: Rs. 60,000/-. Roster cum Merit

For 14 Posts of General Duty Medical Officers

Sl. No.	Reservation	Other Candidate	Woman Candidate	Rural Candidate	Ex-Servicemen Candidate	Differently Abled Candidate	Project Displaced Candidate	Kannada Medium Education Candidate	Transgender Candidate	Total
1	SC	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	ST	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	C-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4	2A	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
5	2B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
6	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	3B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GM	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	7
	Total	7	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	14
	For 7 Posts of Anesthesia Specialist									
1	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	ST	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	C-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4	2A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	2B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	3B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GM	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Total	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
	For 5 Posts of Gynecology and Obstetrics Specialist									
1	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	ST	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	C-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	2B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	3B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GM	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	For 3 posts of Pediatric Specialist									
1	SC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	ST	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	C-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	2A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	2B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	3A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	3B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

As per approval of Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/1022/2022-23

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Our Client Shri. Akbar Khan, Aged About 72 Years, Son of Shri. Nooralla Khan, Residing at No. Flat No. 11, Heritage R G Apartment, Ginger View, Sukulpalya, Kengeri, Bengaluru- 560060, intends to purchase all that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No. 43, Khatha No. 525, formed in converted **Sy. No. 61/1A2 vide conversion order no. BDS/ALN(S)/(KT)124/2003-04 dated 11/03/2004,** issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District, situated at Kengeri Village, within the jurisdiction of BBMP and earlier part of Rajarajeshwarinagar CMC, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Feet (morefully described in the Schedule and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule A Property") and all that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No. 44, Khatha No. 525, formed in converted **Sy. No. 61/1A2 vide conversion order no. BDS/ALN(S)/(KT)124/2003-04 dated 11/03/2004,** issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District, situated at Kengeri Village, within the jurisdiction of BBMP and earlier part of Rajarajeshwari nagar CMC, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Feet (morefully described in the Schedule and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule B Property") from his Vendors/ Owners Shri. Pravir S Mehta, Aged About 32 Years, Son of Shri. Snehal Mehta and Smt. Disha Mehta, Aged About 32 Years, Wife of Shri. Pravir S Mehta, both residing at No. 31, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Opposite Goodwill Ganga Apartments, Binny Employees Layout, Bengaluru-560040.

Notice is hereby given to all the persons having any claim, right, title or interest in respect to the Schedule Properties thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance possession, lease, lien, or otherwise, howsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing along with supporting documents to the undersigned within a period of 07 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which Our Client shall proceed and purchase the Schedule Properties and no subsequent claims by anybody shall be entertained and all such claims or objections will be deemed to be void and not binding on Our Client.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No. 43, Khatha No. 525, formed in converted **Sy. No. 61/1A2 vide conversion order no. BDS/ALN(S)/(KT)124/2003-04 dated 11/03/2004,** issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District, situated at Kengeri Village, within the jurisdiction of BBMP and earlier part of Rajarajeshwarinagar CMC, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Feet and the same is bounded on:

East by: Site No. 42;
West by: Site No. 44;
North by : Site No. 39 and 40;
South by: Road;

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No. 44, Khatha No. 525, formed in converted Sy. No. 61/1A2 vide conversion order no. **BDS/ALN(S)/(KT)124/2003-04 dated 11/03/2004,** issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District, situated at Kengeri Village, within the jurisdiction of BBMP and earlier part of Rajarajeshwari nagar CMC, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Feet and the same is bounded on:

East by: Site No. 43;
West by: Site No. 45;
North by : Site No. 39 and 40;
South by : Road;

Sd/-
Nikhil D. Kamath, Advocate.
No. 84, 3rd Floor, Conservancy Lane,
Puttanna Road, Basavangudi,
Bengaluru-560004. Mo: 99000 94484

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. Manu Sood & Smt. Shashikala Sood** both agreed to purchase of 'Schedule Property' from the owner **Mr. V. Ranganath** & the owner **Mr. V. Ranganath** has entered into registered agreement of sale pertaining to schedule property on 21.03.2018 with Sri Shiva Shankare Gowda Y S & Mrs. Shubha B L registered as document no. 12157/2017-18 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore and due to non-performance the same cancelled on 21.11.2020 under Cancellation agreement registered as document no. 04433/2020-21 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore between them and both the agreements has been lost/misplaced by the said **Mr. V. Ranganath** and he registered police compliant on 08.02.2023, online bearing lost report no. 0467298/2023.

The said **Sri. Manu Sood & Smt. Shashikala Sood** are intending for a loan transaction from **Federal bank at Bangalore** by creating charge. Hence this public notice. Any person/s, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the schedule property herein are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person **within fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the schedule property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the transactions.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land presently bearing New Municipal No. 36, identified by PID No. 2-182-36, Situated at **Pipeline Road, Raghavendra Layout, BBMP Ward No. 2 (Jalahalli Ward), Bangalore,** (forming portion of earlier Municipal No. 8, Old No. 2, later renumbered as No. 172, earlier part of Sy. No. 87 of Yeshwanthpur), measuring 68,115 Sq.feet (out of 77,319 Sq.ft), Identified by letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G. H & A in the plan Annexed plan showing the property conveyed, being part and parcel of this sale deed & measuring and bounded on the:

East by: Drain & there after Private Property in CTS No. 1434, West by: Pipeline Road, Cross Road, portion of property in same Sy. No. and private Property in CTS No. 1432, North by: Remaining property in the same Sy. No. 87, Road and remaining property in the same Sy. No & private property in CTS No. 1430, South by: Pipeline Road and Private Property.

SCHEDULE 'A1' PROPERTY

Flat no. 601, on the 6th floor in the building known as **"DECCAN HABITAT"** on the lands described in schedule A above (including one half part in deputy of the joints between the ceiling of the apartment and the floor of the apartment above it and internal and external walls between such levels), measuring **116 smt (1249 sq ft) of carpet area (and 181.3 smt/1950 sq ft** super built up area that is inclusive of share in common area i.e, joint undivided interest/ownership common space, passage, pipe, drains, common terrace and staircases/ along with Two covered car parking **slot no. 601** in basement floor.

SCHEDULE 'A-2' PROPERTY

The undivided share, right, title & interest and ownership equivalent to **732 sq ft** in the land in the schedule A property referred to above.

Mr. MASOOD ALI KHAN MECCI
ADVOCATE
Office at No.23-A, ground floor,
HHS & HMS Complex, Cubbonpet
Main Road, Bangalore-560 002
Mobile : 9845548279
email : makmecci@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public hereby informed that my client is negotiating to purchase the schedule property from its owners SMT.EVILIN ASHOK, W/o Late U.R.Ashok Kumar, Aged about 59 years, and SMT.R.VINUTHA W/o Mohan, Aged about 38 years, Both are Residing at No.1073/39, 35th B Cross, 4th T Block, 28th Main Road, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041. Hence the interested persons if any having, right interest or claim on the schedule property they may file their objections along with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 7 days from this day, failure to which it is deemed that there is no claim or objections towards the schedule property from anybody and accordingly my client will proceed to purchase the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential property situated at Old No,1075, New No.1075/39, Before 35th D Cross, Now 36th E Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore measuring East to west : 40 feet and North to South 65 feet totally measuring 2600 Sqare Feet, consisting RCC roofed Ground and First Floor, with all amenities Corporation PID No.58-34-39, Muncipal No.39, and bounded on:

East by :Property bearing No.1074
West by : Property bearing No. 1076
North by: Road
South by :Property bearing No. 1056

Place: **Bengaluru** Date:**18.02.2023**
H.V. SHYAME GOWDA
Advocate
No.104, 5th 'C' Main,
Hampinagar, R.P.C. Layout,
Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104
Phone No.9845145223

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder from its present owner Mohan Babu s/o Ramakrishnappa, residing at Honnakalasapura Village, Sidihoskote Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. Sri. Mohan Babu has represented that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and he has not entered into any agreement of sale or any sort of arrangement with any persons and further represented that he has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from him there are no other person/s having any sort of right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property.

Any person or persons asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest or claim on the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owner or objection to such sale in favour of my client should file his/her/their/its objections or claims with supporting documents to the undersigned within **10 days** of the issuance of this public notice, after that my client shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential converted land bearing **Sy. No. 35,** measuring 3 Acre 39 Guntas, situated at **Gudigattanahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded on:

East By : Property of Krishnamurthy;
West By : Property of Babu Reddy;
North By : Property of Nanjundappa;
South By : Property of Prem @ Anand.

BHARATH KUMAR V, Advocate
No. 4/2, 2nd Floor, Shamsuddin Block,
HHS & HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main
Road, Bengaluru-560002 M:9485629337
email : bharath.advocates@gmail.com

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Mobile : 73495 98454
SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAGULINE Margarate Arul ,R/O No.25, 19th Crs, 22nd Mn, Ramanna Rd, Ayodhya Nagar, JP Nagar 5th Phase, BLR–78, have changed my daughter's name from Agnes Bhaskar to Agnes Dorathy Arun Prasad vide afdvt dtd 17/02/2023.

WE, CHANDRASHEKAR N & Ashwini R, R/a No.16, Hunasemaradapalya, Ramohalli, Kengeri, Bangalore - 560060 have changed our minor Son's name from Nihal C to Nishanth C vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2023 sworn before Notary Mamatha N.K, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-20) O.S. NO. 26473/2019

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...**PLAINTIFF**
AND
SVS INDUSTRIES AND OTHERS ...DEFENDANT

Summons

1. SVS INDUTRIES
No. 26, 17th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Near Chethan Circle Andrahalli, BANGALORE-560 091.
2. Mr. GIRISH KE
S/o. Ere Gowda,
Aged about 34 years,
27/1, 7th A Cross, Balaji Nagar, Thigalarapalya Main Road, Bangalore Peenya Small Industries,
BANGALORE- 560 058.
3. Mr. SHANKARAPPA KE
S/o Ere Gowda,
Aged about 34 years,
27/1, 7th A Cross, Balaji Nagar, Thigalarapalya Main Road, Bangalore Peenya Small Industries,
BANGALORE- 560 058.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,45,614.84/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fourteen and paisa Eighty Four Only),** apart from future interest of **18% p.a.,** in **O.S.No. 26473/2019** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-20,** Before Addl. City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are here by summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 29th Day of March, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 16th Day of February 2023.

FX & CO.,
Advocates,
New No. 9, OLD NO. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JACQULINE Margrete ,D/O Arul Manoharan Margarate, R/O No.25, 19th Crs, 22nd Mn, Ramanna Rd, Ayodhya Nagar, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Blr–78, have changed my name as Jaguline Margarate Arul vide afdvt dtd 17/02/2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mr. Dr. Murali Gowda M.R, aged about 47 years, Son of Late Rangaswamy M.R, residing at House No. 923, 1st Floor, Sudha Cottage, Near Apollo BGS Hospital, 6th Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore City, hereby certify as follows that I presently Residing at the above address & I hereby certify that I have lost my Original Sale Deed Sale deed no. 4601/18/19 Reftication deed no. 5009/18/19 Veena S.M Gift deed no 2052/18/19 **dated: 31-10-2021** at JSS Hospital, Mysore to see my friend's child and on that day my property and many other documents that day. Details of my property: Bangalore North Taluk, Yashwanthpur Hobli, Abbigere Village the Assessment No 30/4th property in the village Abbigere under 12th ward of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, As per BBMP B Form in the serial no. 412, **North-West:** 60-0 Feet, **North South:** 40-0 Feet measurement, Boundary of the site is: **East :** Site of Chandru; **West:** Site of L.P. Suma **North:** Remaining Space **South:** Road;

I hereby certify that the above asset records have not been misused as per this affidavit as I have to file a complaint in the police station to obtain copies of my assets. So I have sworn in the name of God that all the above Facts are True and Signed in front of a Notary.

Sd/- Dr. Murali Gowda M.R
Place: Mysore Dated: 11-11-2021

TENDERS

EXPRESSION OF Interest: SVPISTM, Ministry of Textiles, GoI, Coimbatore invites EoI from Indian and International Technical Textile Machinery Manufactures for supplying prototyping equipment dedicated only for academic activities in Technical Textiles and application areas. For further details, Visit www.svpistm.ac.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from reputed parties having GST Registration for the supply of Ammonia and Barrel at Latex Centrifuging Factory of the State Farming Corporation for the year 2023-24.

For more details log on
www.sfckerala.com
Ph: 0475 - 2222251/52, 9188292251

Sd/-
Managing Director
The State Farming Corporation of Kerala Ltd.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Increasing tensions: This photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard shows a green military-grade laser light from a Chinese coast guard ship in the disputed South China Sea on February 6. AP

More sabre-rattling, more isolation: militarisation of the South China Sea

The South China Sea has always been a transit point for trade since early medieval times, contains abundantly rich fisheries, and is a repository of mineral deposits and hydrocarbon reserves. Therefore, current Chinese muscularity in the SCS is leading to a growing chorus of protest

Jayant Prasad

Amid overlapping sovereign claims in the South China Sea, the Philippines and the U.S. are currently discussing conducting joint coast guard patrols in the strategic waterway. In this article dated July 8, 2020, former diplomat Jayant Prasad details China's aggression in the South China sea and how the region has been militarily equipping itself against China.

The Philippines invoked the dispute settlement mechanism of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 2013 to test the legality of China's 'nine-dash line' regarding the disputed Spratlys. In response, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague decreed in its July 12, 2016 judgment that the line had "no legal basis." China dismissed the judgment as "null and void."

The South China Sea (SCS) is important not just to its littoral countries. It has been a transit point for trade since early medieval times, contains abundantly rich fisheries, and is a repository of mineral deposits and hydrocarbon reserves.

The PCA verdict

The PCA award undermined the Chinese claim. It held that none of the features of the Spratlys qualified them as islands, and there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights and to the resources within the 'nine-dash line'. The UNCLOS provides that islands must sustain habitation and the capacity for non-extractive economic activity. Reefs and shoals that are unable to do so are considered low-tide elevations.

The award implied that China violated the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It noted that China had aggravated the situation by undertaking land reclamation and construction, and had harmed the environment and violated its obligation to preserve the ecosystem. China dismissed the award as "a political farce under the pretext of law."

Given the power equations, the Philippines did not press for enforcement of the award and acquiesced in the status quo. Not one country challenged China, which agreed to settle disputes bilaterally, and to continue work on a Code of Conduct with countries of the ASEAN.

Given that their economic ties with China are deepening, it may appear that the ASEAN countries are bandwagoning with China. In reality, there is growing discontent. While avoiding military confrontation with China, they are seeking political insurance, strengthening their navies, and deepening their military relationships with the United States.

Vietnam has added six Kilo-class, Russian-origin submarines to its navy. France, Germany and the Netherlands, respectively, have supplied Formidable-class stealth ships to Singapore, patrol boats to Brunei Darussalam, and corvettes to Indonesia. Japan is partially funding the upgradation of the Indonesian coast guard. Indonesia and the Philippines are in early stages of exploring procurement of the BrahMos missile from India. The other ASEAN countries that have shown interest are Thailand and Vietnam.

Growing Chinese muscularity in the SCS is visible in the increased patrolling and live-fire exercising by Chinese naval vessels; ramming and sinking of fishing vessels of other claimant countries; renaming of SCS features; and building of runways, bunkers, and habitation for possible long-term stationing of personnel on the atolls claimed by China.

Chinese exploration and drilling vessels compete aggressively with those of other littoral countries in the disputed waters. Petronas has been prospecting for oil in the Malaysian EEZ. A Chinese spokesperson claimed in early June that its own survey vessel in the same area was conducting "normal activities in waters under Chinese jurisdiction."

The festering regional resentment against China resulted in the unmuting of the ASEAN response to the growing Chinese footprint in the SCS at its 36th Summit on June 26, 2020.

China might have overreached by showing its aggressive hand prematurely. There is a growing chorus of protest against China. Having Vietnam, Japan and the U.S. riled up about its actions is nothing new for China. The Philippines and the ASEAN beginning to protest is new, even if their criticism is restrained. This does China little credit, and points to its growing isolation.

Indonesia protested to China about Chinese vessels trespassing into its waters close to the Nantua islands, towards the south of the SCS. The Philippines protested to China earlier this year about violations of Filipino sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea. It also wrote to the UN Secretary General (UNSG) in March disputing China's claim of "historic rights in the South China Sea." Two months later, Indonesia too wrote to the UNSG on this issue. It expressed support for compliance with international law, particularly the UNCLOS, as also for the PCA's 2016 ruling.

President Rodrigo Duterte said he had not followed up on the PCA judgment because the Philippines could not afford to fight China. Yet, when a Chinese firm bid to develop the Subic Bay, this was disallowed on the grounds that the use of archipelagic waters was exclusively reserved for Filipinos and that foreign investment regulations prohibited foreign equity for the utilisation of marine resources in archipelagic waters. Another recent decision, to extend the Visiting Forces Agreement with the U.S. for six months "in light of political and other developments in the region," as expressed by the Philippines Foreign Secretary, is a strategic setback for China. Only this June, the Philippines commissioned a beaching ramp on the Pag-Asa Island. A Filipino C-130 landed on its runway, which is being repaired. The Philippines is about to induct its first missile-capable frigate, built in South Korea, into its navy.

A complicating factor for China is Russia's growing military and economic equities in the SCS. Russia and Vietnam have a defence cooperation relationship, which they are committed to strengthening. China has objected to Rosneft Vietnam BV prospecting within the Chinese defined 'nine-dash line.' Rosneft has also been invited by the Philippines to conduct oil prospecting in its EEZ.

India's relevant options

From India's perspective, foreign and security policy in its larger neighbourhood covers the entire expanse of the Asia-Pacific and extends to the Persian Gulf and West Asia. India straddles, and is the fulcrum of, the region between the Suez and Shanghai, between West and East Asia, and between the Mediterranean and the SCS. The SCS carries merchandise to and from India. It follows that India has a stake in the SCS, just as China has in the Indian Ocean.

India must continue to actively pursue its defence diplomacy outreach in the Indo-Pacific region: increase military training and conduct exercises and exchanges at a higher level of complexity, extend Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief activities, share patrolling of the Malacca Strait with the littoral countries, etc. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships that India has concluded with Australia, Japan, Indonesia, the U.S., and Vietnam could be extended to Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore.

India must also buttress the military capacity of the tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command. According to one of its early Commanders-in-Chief, Lt. Gen. Aditya Singh, the manner in which the 368 islands, have been neglected "can only be termed as criminal." These have immense geo-strategic value, as they overlook Asia's maritime strategic lifeline and the world's most important global sea lane. In this time of turbulence, India cannot afford to continue undervaluing one of its biggest assets.

Jayant Prasad, a former diplomat, served as Director General of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Hindu's Lit for life literary festival is to be held on February 24 and 25. To get ourselves in the spirit, here is a quiz on Indian English literature

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
Who authored the book *The Palace of Illusions* which is a retelling of the Indian epic, Mahabharata, from a female perspective?

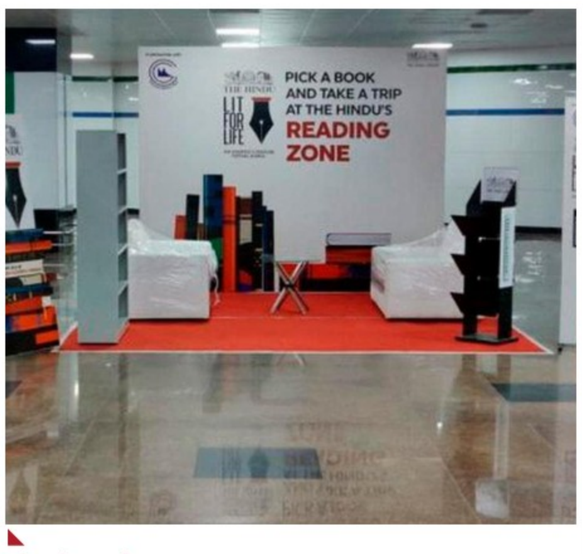
QUESTION 2
Who is the author of the book *The Great Indian Novel* which is a satirical take on the Indian independence movement?

QUESTION 3
What is the name of the book released in the year 2002, by Padma Bhushan awardee S. L. Bhyrappa which was awarded the Saraswati Samman in the year 2010?

QUESTION 4
Who is the author of the book, *Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh*, which is a story that uses Shah Rukh Khan's films and the reforms of 1991 as starting points to talk about the lives of women and their economic labour?

QUESTION 5
Whose autobiography, which is also this years No:1 Best Seller, is the book *Sultan: A memoir*?

QUESTION 6
Whose debut novel in Malayalam is *Khasakkinte Itihasam*(Saga of Khasak) which is the story of a young university student, who leaves a promising future to take up a primary school teacher's job in the remote village of Khasak?



Visual question:
Where in Chennai ahead of *The Hindu* LFL 2023, would you find these 'reading zones'?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Ferrari was founded in 1939 as the racing division of this automobile brand. **Ans: Alfa Romeo**
2. The number of 1947 125S Ferraris manufactured initially. **Ans: Two**
3. The connection between Cavallino Rampante and Count Francesco Baracca to Ferrari. **Ans: Cavallino Rampante is Italian for 'prancing horse', which was originally the symbol of Baracca, a legendary flying ace**
4. Scuderia Ferrari started competing in this year and this person was its first driver to win an F1 race. **Ans: 1950 and José Froilán González**
5. This company owns 22.91% of Ferrari. **Ans: Exor**
6. This F1 legend is the team's most successful driver with five consecutive drivers' titles and 72 Grands Prix. **Ans: Michael Schumacher**
7. The Ferrari World park is in this city. **Ans: Dubai**
8. Apart from Modena this town is also considered the home of Ferrari. **Ans: Maranello**
Visual: This was the last Ferrari driver to win a Formula One championship. **Ans: Kimi Raikkonen**
Early Birds: Aryaman Rajput| Daksh Yadav| Manish Babal| Varghese Joseph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. A. Wadhwa of Jullundur wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to throw the book at someone'."

"It means 'to make all possible charges against a person'.

She resigned because her boss threw the book at her.

A man who throws the book at another is an unreasonable person as he accuses another of every conceivable offence."

"Mr. N. Lakshmanaperumal, Adi Parasakthi Engineering College, Melmaruvathur, wants to know which of the two is correct (a) sense of belonging, (b) sense of belongingness."

" 'Sense of belonging' is correct. It means 'close or intimate relationship'.

A fine sense of belonging exists among the faculty of the institution.

'Belongingness' is used occasionally in American English."

"Dr. Subhadra, Government General Hospital, Kakinada, wants to know the meaning of the word 'seasoned' in 'He is a seasoned politician'."

" 'He is a seasoned politician' means an experienced, mature politician. This is the result of long exposure to politics. When a tree is cut down for wood, the wood is exposed for a long time till it becomes dry and hard. Such wood is called seasoned wood. We use only seasoned wood for furniture. A seasoned politician is one who has become mature through exposure to the rigour of politics."

"Mrs. Sujatha E. Shirigeri, Kumbarwadi, Raichur, wants to know the pronunciation and use of 'de rigueur'."

"The 'e' in 'de' is pronounced like the final sound in 'China'. The 'i' in 'rigueur' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'sit', the 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in get. 'gueur' rhymes with 'fur', 'her'. 'De rigueur' is a French expression meaning 'required by custom or etiquette'.

Formal dress is de rigueur for the party."

"Mr. P. S. Bhatia, Simla, wants to know the meaning of 'love all' mentioned at the beginning of a game of tennis."

" 'Love all' means 'neither side has yet scored'. Both sides start with a zero. 'Love all' has nothing to do with the English word 'love'. It is a corruption of French 'l'oeuf' which means 'the egg'. The shape of the egg is the shape of zero (0). From this we get 'love all', 'zero all'. This literally means 'egg all'!

In cricket also when a batsman scores 0, we say he has made a duck. He is said to break his duck when he scores his first run. The original expression was 'duck's egg'. Now we leave out the egg part!

Published in The Hindu on January 27, 1987

Word of the day

Callous:
being insensitive; deaden feelings or morals; emotionally hardened; having skin made tough and thick through wear (can be used as verb and an adjective)

Synonyms: cauterise, indurate, thickened

Usage: *In a callous act, the company fired more than half of its employees.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/callouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈkaləs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 21		
RISE	06:40	SET 18:27
RISE	07:32	SET 19:40
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:27
RISE	08:15	SET 20:36
THURSDAY, FEB. 23		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:27
RISE	08:58	SET 21:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	21
Mysuru	32	16
Bengaluru	31	18

Bengaluru Today
32ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31ºC A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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100 'SHE Toilets' proposed in Budget set to open before polls

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on February 13 called tenders for 100 'She Toilets' and then the government proposed in the Budget, presented on February 17, to set up 250 such toilets across the city

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU:

In his recent Budget speech, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the government will set up 250 well-equipped 'She Toilets' in Bengaluru.

However, it has now turned out that the civic body had already issued tenders for 100 'She Toilets' even before the Budget and these are expected to come up in the next one month, before the model code of conduct kicks in.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on February 13 called tenders for 100 'She Toilets' in the city and then the State government proposed in the Budget to set up a total of 250 such toilets across the city.

"250 well-equipped She Toilets will be constructed in heavily populated markets, mega commercial complexes, etc. in the city. State-of-the art design including toilets, feeding room, mobile charging, emergency SOS services etc. will be taken up at a cost of ₹50 crore in these complexes," Mr. Bommai said in his Budget speech.

BBMP officials said that the initiative has got good feedback from many elected representatives before its launch.

"The toilets were proposed earlier only for 100 locations. But after knowing about this initiative by the BBMP, many elected representatives have requested for the project in more locations and hence the government has increased the number of toilets to be constructed in the city," a senior BBMP official told *The Hindu*.

The BBMP will construct the toilets in all eight zones in the city. "The overall design and build of the toilet will be innovative, using the latest technology for construction, space-saving compact design and information technology components using Internet of Things (IOT), mobile application, water and electricity conservation, waste management, security, hygiene, etc," officials said.

The BBMP has planned to take up the initiative under the public-private partnership model with advertisement rights

"We have called a tender to set up 100 She toilets in the city under design, engineer, procure, build, operate, and maintain through public-private partnership. The BBMP will provide required land as available. The project intends to cover public places with high visitors as well as commuter footfall areas. The toilets may be opened by March this year, " officials added.

The BBMP will make provision of visible back-lit advertisement space to generate revenue. "Apart from wall advertisements as per the size specified by the BBMP, a digital video wall will be placed at every location which would run advertisements of business and commercial entities. On the video wall, 20% of the time would be allocated for public awareness, government announcement/messages, and social messages," the official explained.

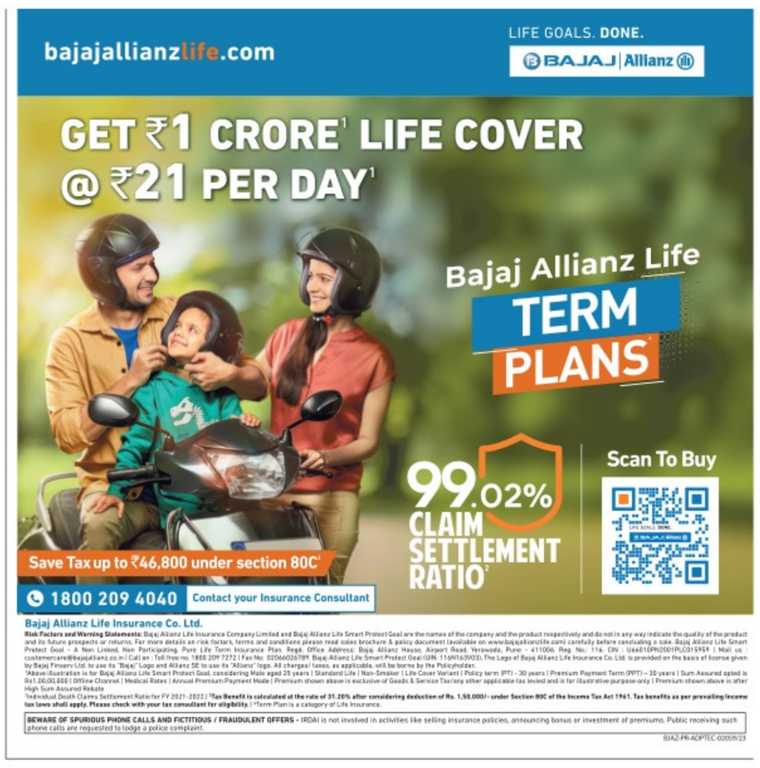
The BBMP is planning to manage all 'She toilets' using IoT technology through a mobile application. The toilets will have technology enabled smart automatic toilet seat, dual flushing option, nozzle self-cleaning function, water temperature adjustment, etc.

"The management technology will have toilet hygiene level and user data collection system. It will also have toilet quality monitoring, surveillance system and feedback system," official said while adding "overall functions of the facility will be managed through a mobile application allowing users to register, book for the usage. The application will provide for various features like managing of user profile, passwords, usage tracking, GPS coordinates mapping for locating the facility, security, etc. Various options of digital payments will be implemented".

Features of 'SHE Toilets'

- Resting zones (lounge area)
- Baby feeding room
- Janitor room services
- Mobile charging
- Emergency SOS service
- Smart automatic toilet seat
- Management of toilets through Internet of Things (IOT)
- Separate mobile application
- Water and electricity conservation
- Waste management

- Eco-friendly atmosphere with ornamental and horticultural plants in the sit-out area



HC notice to Muniratna, BBMP on row over Mallathahalli lakebed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notices to Horticulture Minister Muniratna, president of BJP unit of Rajarajeshwarinagar Assembly constituency M. Govindaraju, and officials of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike's RR Nagar zone on a plea that has alleged that they encroached upon the Mallathahalli lakebed area for organising a public event and to put up an open air theatre.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice B. Veerappa and Justice Rajesh Rai K., passed the order on an application filed by Geetha Misra during the hearing on a PIL petition, through which the court is monitoring the measures taken by various authorities to protect, preserve, and rejuvenate lakes in the city.

Ms. Misra, who has also filed a PIL petition on lake rejuvenation, had alleged that Mr. Govindaraju, with the help of Mr. Muniratna, who is the MLA of RR Nagar constituency, and the BBMP officials had arranged for installation of an idol of Shiva, put up circular concrete structures to form an open air theatre on the lakebed area, and organised an entertainment programme on February 18 to celebrate Maha Sivaratri.

Though Mr. Govindaraju had sought permission from the BBMP to organise the event on the lakebed, the event was held in connivance with the BBMP officials though there was no permission granted in writing, it was alleged in the application.

The constructions have reduced the lakebed area and resulted in violation of the court's earlier order of not to disturb the lakebed areas, the petitioner has alleged.

As the BBMP denied these allegation, the Bench directed the civic body to file its response in writing.

CRS authorises train operations on new line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The CRS has authorised to run trains at a maximum speed of 90 kmph and 15 kmph on loop lines.

After inspecting the newly constructed line (doubling) between Carmelaram and Heelalige, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Abhai Kumar Rai, has authorised operations of passenger trains and goods traffic on it.

The Rail Infrastructure Development Company(Karnataka) Limited (KRIDE) is implementing the doubling project from Baiyappanahalli to Hosur and the new line inspected on Monday is part of the 48 km doubling project.

The distance between Carmelaram and Heelalige is 10 km. The doubling project was sanctioned in 2018-19 by the Railway Board as a cost sharing project: 50% each by the Railway Ministry and the Karnataka government. The total cost of the project is ₹498 crore.

The CRS has authorised to run trains at maximum speed of 90 kmph and 15 kmph on loop lines.

A release from the KRIDE stated that the new station building has been built at Heelalige with two platforms and amenities for passengers have been provided. A foot overbridge will be provided shortly.

Bommai to launch KSRTC's Ambaari Ustav buses today

The fare for the new service will be 10% higher than that of the sleeper Ambaari Dream Class.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Considering the increased demand for sleeper coach buses, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is all set to introduce one more brand in the premier service segment.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will launch Ambaari Ustav, the new brand with the tagline "Celebration of Journey". The cost of the bus is ₹1.73 crore.

Managing Director of KSRTC Anbu Kumar told *The Hindu* that the KSRTC is procuring Volvo 9600 multi-axle sleeper buses to introduce the new service. He said that the KSRTC will induct 50 luxury buses.

The bus fare will be 10% higher than that of the sleeper Ambaari Dream Class, which was launched in April, 2019.

"There has been consistent demand for sleeper buses. To meet the demand, we are introducing buses in premier segments. Ambaari Ustav comes with more luxury features and is technically advanced. The new buses will be operated on routes from Bengaluru to Mangaluru, Belagavi, Hyderabad, Chennai, and other popular routes. The fare structure will be little above Ambaari Dream Class," said the MD.

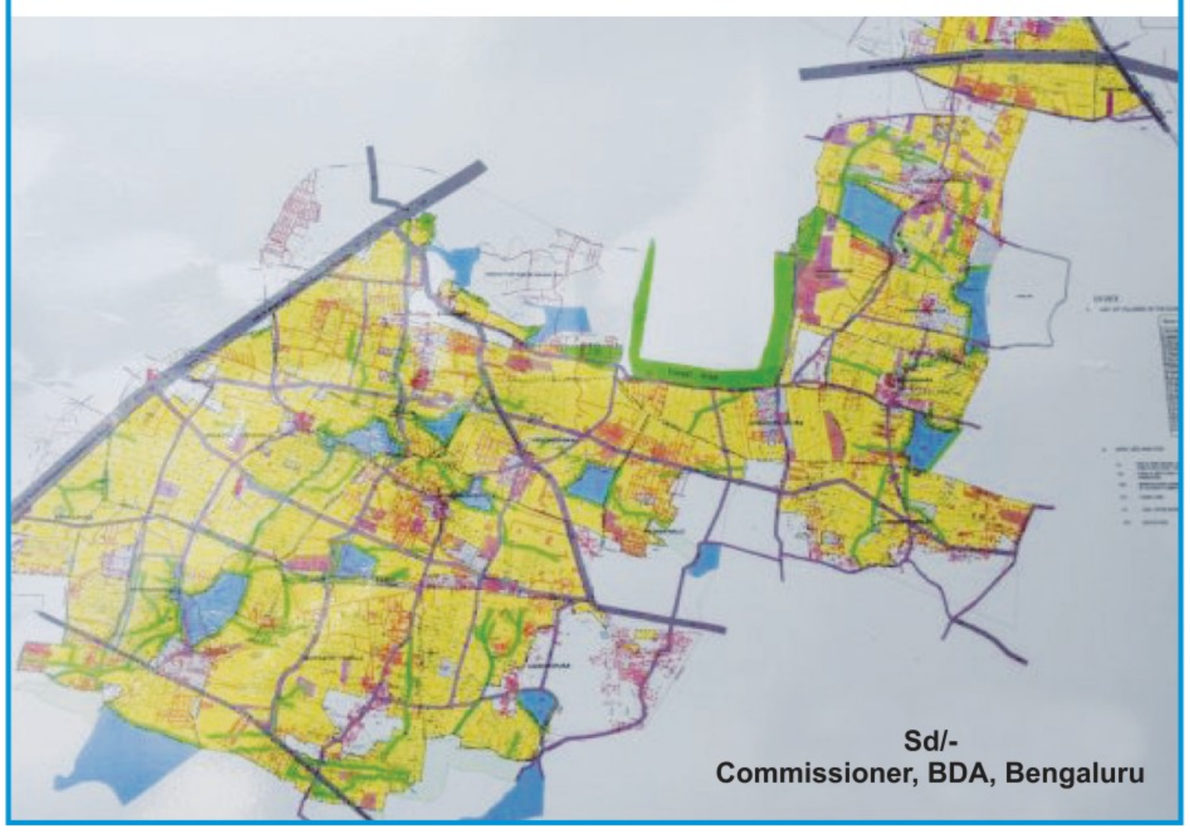
The official further said: "We have surpassed the pre-COVID-19 passenger demand. However, due to non-induction of new buses for over four years we have been facing problems. We have also faced criticism for running old buses. Considering the passenger demand we are inducting new buses."

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

Dr. K. Shivarama Karantha Layout Bengaluru

Date: 20.02.2023

On the recommendations of the Justice Chandrashekar Committee, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has regularized 5171 Buildings. The work of formation of the Layout has now started. This will continue to be monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The next hearing of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on matters connected with the Dr. K. Shivarama Karantha layout is on 3rd March 2023. This is for information of general public.



Sd/-
Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru

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Ace Kannada director S.K. Bhagavan dead

Bhagavan directed 49 films, of great versatility and many of them blockbusters, with his collaborator B. Dorai Raj, and the duo became well known as Dorai-Bhagavan

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Actor Anant Nag paying his respects to S.K. Bhagavan (inset) in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Filmmaker S.K. Bhagavan, 89, one of the last few links to the Rajkumar-era Kannada cinema, passed away owing to age-related ailments in Bengaluru on Monday.

Mr. Bhagavan directed 48 films, of great versatility and many of them blockbusters, with his collaborator B. Dorai Raj, with the pair becoming popular as Dorai-Bhagavan. He directed his last film, after the passing away of Dorai in 2000, in 2019. The duo was closely associated with Dr. Rajkumar, with whom they made several iconic films, including *Kasturi Nivasa*. Later, they made several hit films with Anant Nag and Lakshmi.

Mr. Bhagavan started out as a theatre actor with Hirannaiah Mitra Mandali and entered films in 1956 as an assistant to Kanagal Prabhakara Shastry and later to T. V. Singh Thakore. Filmmaker S.V. Rajendra Singh Babu recalled that Mr. Bhagavan used to come to his house in Mysuru in 1950s and starred as a lead actor in the 1958 film *Mangala Sutra*. It was directed by his father D. Shankar Singh and his mother Prathima Devi was the heroine. However, Mr. Bhagavan did not continue as an actor and shifted back to film-making.

He collaborated with A. C. Narasimha Murthy, another assistant director to Singh Thakore, and worked on *Sandhya Raaga* and made his first credited debut as a co-director with him in the film *Rajadurgada Rahasya*. However, he later collaborated with cinematographer Dorai Raj and the pair made their independent debut with the innovative James Bond-style film *Jedara Bale*, starring Dr. Rajkumar and went on to make several films in the genre, with the matinee idol. The duo made four 'James Bond' films.

The iconic 1971 film *Kasturi Nivasa* directed by the duo cemented their collaboration with Dr. Rajkumar further. They went on to make super-hit and critically acclaimed films like *Eradu Kanasu*, *Giri Kanye*, *Hosabelaku*, *Jeevana Chaitra*, and *Odahuttidavaru*. He also made the film *Yarivanu*, tailored to showcase the acting skills of the late Puneeth Rajkumar, as a child actor. "Dr. Rajkumar and his home banner had a great rapport with Dorai-Bhagavan, and Bhagavan was like a member of the Rajkumar family, including being associated with the matinee idol during his musical night tour," Mr. Babu recalled.

The Dorai-Bhagavan collaboration with Anant Nag began with the now iconic film *Bayalu Daari* in 1976 and they made several hit films, especially pairing Anant Nag with Lakshmi, including *Chandanada Gombe*, *Benkiya Bale*, *Bidugadeya Bedi*, and *Sedina Hakki*. Most of these films were based on popular novels and earned Anant Nag a massive following among women.

Two persons held on charge of stealing vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagepalli police on Monday arrested two inter-State bike-lifters and recovered 10 two-wheelers, worth ₹9 lakh, from them. The accused, Suresh Ramappa, 31, and Ashok Narasimhalu, 25, from Kadiri and Hindupur taluk of Andhra Pradesh, are habitual offenders involved in bike thefts in Bagepalli and parts of Andhra Pradesh.

The accused would come to the city, move around residential areas to identify two-wheelers parked outside houses, and steal them.

They would ride back to their native area and sell it in rural parts of Andhra Pradesh for throwaway prices.

City Municipal Council, Chintamani.

Through e-Procurement in KW-1. KG-1 Document

Tender Notification No.: CMCC/ AS/CR/175/2022-23
Date: 05.03.2022

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chintamani, Chikkaballapura District invites Tender subject to conditions for participation in the Tender. For further information visit website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

(1) Indent No.: DMA/2021-22/IND14946 **(2)** INDENT No.: DMA/2023/IND14978 **(3)** INDENT No.: DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT146482. **(4)** CMC/HS/CR/181/2022-23 **(5)** INDENT No DMA/2022-23/INDENT14959 **(6)** INDENT No.: DMA/2022-23/IND14977 **(7)** INDENT No.: DMA/2022-23/IND14981. **(8)** INDENT No.: DMA/2022-23/IND15006 **(9)** INDENT No.: DMA/2022-23/IND15007.

Notes: (1) Last date for submission of Tenders in e-procurement portal: **03.03.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs. (2)** Date of opening the Tender in e-procurement: **04.03.2023 after 5.05 PM** or if the said day is a Govt. holiday it will be opened on the next working day.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
City Municipal Council, Chintamani

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ522/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022–23

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/2022-23/799 Date:16-02-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through E-Procurement Portal System (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Total 05 Nos. of Belagavi/ Gokak/ Athani Sub Divisions under 4702/2022-23 Head. Estimate Amount Lowest Rs.85.00 Lakh & Highest Rs.307.00 Lakhs. The contractor should quote rates without adding GST except for KEB items of LIS work. The GST amount will be paid separately. In case of extension period of work, if GST rates are increased then the contractor himself should pay the increased GST amountThe work details can be obtained from 17-02-2023 to 24-02-2023 upto 16.00 hrs.
1. Pre bid meeting date:23-02-2023 at Morning 11.00 AM,1. Tender Receipt Last Date:24-02-2023 Evening 4.00 PM,2. Tender Opening Date:27-02-2023 Morning 11.00 AM (if possible),3. For Tender Details office address:Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi,4. Web Site Address:wwe.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1815/KSMCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal-583231
E-Mail:eemidnkst@rediffmail.com, P&F.No.08539:220054

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2022-23/826 Dated:17.02.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-3&4 on E-procurement portal for 05 no of tender works pertaining to Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned work varies from **Rs 60.75 to 145.80** Lakhs . The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **21-02-2023.** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **03-03-2023** time 17.30 hours, pre bid meeting will be held on 24-02-2023 time 11.00 hours at this office. Date & time for opening of technical bid **06-03-2023** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **08-03-2023** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/670/KSMCA/2022-23

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Planning and Road Asset Management Centre (PRAMC), 4th Floor, PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001

No.: EIC/40/PRAMC/RS/2022-23 Date: 13.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement portal)

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for one Road Safety work in Haveri District. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** from **14.02.2023, 05:30 PM** onwards.

***Sd/-* Executive Engineer**
PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/4833/2022-23

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, "Jalabhavan", #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru- 570 009. Ph no: 0821- 2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

The tender for the work of "Improvements to existing Water supply scheme to Somwarpet town from river Harangi as source under AMRUT 2.0 including 5 years of Operation and Maintenance" amounting to Rs.11.78 Crores has been invited vide e-procurement portal indent No:KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT 3329 through E-procurement Portal. **Further details may be obtained through e -procurement portal website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1028/2022-23 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, MYSURU.**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2 (BSWML), 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru– 560 052. Phone No: 6362975012

No: EE/BSWML/TEND/18/2022-23 Date: 20.02.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (2nd Call)

(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal only)

1. The Executive Engineer, BSWML invites tenders on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Project management consultancy works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per KC-6 and KC-7 standard tender documents.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on 06.03.2023 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	PMC Cost in Lakhs	EMD in Rs
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Scientific Closure of Balance Portion of Mittaganahalli Sy. No. 2 and Bellahalli Sy. No.13 landfill sites including leachate trench and storm water drain	28.03	56,500/-
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Establishment of scientific landfill site and its one time Development including O&M in Baiyappanahalli Sy No.80 & surrounding Village Development works in Byatarayanapura Constituency	39.85	80,000/-

NOTE:

1. Qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 06-03-2023 and First Folder containing the Techno-Commercial tender will be opened through e-portal only on 07-03-2023 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
2. Pre bid meeting will be held on 28-03-2023 at 15:00 hours in office of the CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru- 560 052.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tendere's responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e- procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/4837/AKAR/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department, Udupi Division, Udupi, (PIU)

Website : https://www.kpwd.gov.in Email:eepwdudp02@gmail.com

No. EE/PWD/UDN/NIT/75/2022-23/AE-2 Dated : 17.02.2023

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

The Tender for the following works are invited through e-procurment portal of the Government of Karnataka (Viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date for Submission of Tender in Eprocurement	Eligible Tenderer
1	REPAIRS TO DAMAGED BRIDGE AT MALA CHOWKI NOORALBETTU IN KARKALA TALUK (165168)	₹ 1,23,61,750.25	₹ 2,00,000.00	28.02.2023	Class-III and above K-PWD
2	RE CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMERGED BRIDGE AT PAITHALA IN ANDARU VILLAGE HEBRI TALUK (165167)	₹ 1,14,98,316.38	₹ 2,00,000.00	28.02.2023	Class-III and above K-PWD
3	Renovation of Government Health Care Centre at Varamballi in Brahmavar for Establishing of New JMFC and Civil Judge Court at Brahmavara (165026)	₹ 70,30,103.75	₹ 1,40,700.00	01.03.2023	Class-III and above K-PWD
4	Repair & Maintenance of District Jail Staff Quarters in Athradi Village, Hiriyadka, Udupi District (165464)	₹ 17,57,683.00	₹ 44,000.00	01.03.2023	Class-IV and above K-PWD

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,
Udupi Division, Udupi

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-64/35/2022-23 Date: 20.02.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-I (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works :

Name of the work : (1) Providing street lights at the roads of Harohalli Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Ramanagara District. **(2)** Providing street lights at the roads of Sub Layouts at Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area, 2nd & 3rd Phase, Tumakuru District. **(3)** Providing street lights at the roads of Kanagala Industrial Area, Hukkeri Taluk, Belagavi District. **(4)** Providing street lights at the Roads of Hi-Tech Defense and Aerospace Park Industrial Area, Phase-2 (Haraluru-Muddenahalli), Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Last date for submission of bids is: **04.03.2023 upto 04:30 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4838/Zen/2022-23

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML, 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/19/2022-23 Date: 20.02.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Document	Project Period
1	Construction of Leachate Treatment Plants of 20 KLD capacity at MSW processing plants of BBMP (As per directions of the NGT Committee)	1000.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., Online/RTGS /NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.9,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	As per e-procurement portal	06 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **28.02.2023** at 15:00 hours in office of the CE&CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on **06.03.2023** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **07.03.2023** after **16:30** hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
5. GST Shall be paid separately.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/AAA/4820/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
BELAGAVI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
Dr.B.R.Amedkar Road, Belagavi– 590 001
(Autonomous Medical Institution) (Hospital) Phone No: 0831-2420320
(College) Phone No: 0831-2421464.Website: WWW.bimsbelgaum.org
E.Mail: belgaum.bims@gmail.com

No. BIMS/MEW/Tend/Condemn/CR-113/2022-23 DATED: 17/02/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi hereby invites short term tenders under e-tendering system for DISPOSAL OF OLD/OBSOLETE/FURNITURE /EQUIPMENTS & Vehicles OF B.I.M.S BELAGAVI as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999 & Rules 2000 there under:

Sl. No	Tender Notification	Description of Tender	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Downloading of Tender Document from
1	No.BIMS/MEW/Tend/Condemn/CR-113/2022-23 D: 20-02-2023	DISPOSAL OF OLD/OBSOLETE/FURNITURE/EQUIPMENTS & VEHICLES,OF B.I.M.S	Rs. 10,000/-	20-02-2023

The Tenderers Registered under e-procurement Portal can refer Government of Karnataka e Portal website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in to get detailed information about the tender & details of EMD & Security Deposit or can contact the Director BIMS Belagavi in the working hours to get the information.

Tender inviting authority, Tender Accepting Authority has got powers to cancel any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-Chief Administrative Officer,
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1833/MCA/2022-23

Roopa vs. Sindhuri: Officers asked not to air opinion in public, stick to service rules

D. Roopa, Managing Director of Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation and IPS officer, and Rohini Sindhuri, IAS officer and Endowment Commissioner, met Chief Secretary to complain about each other

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Intervening in the bitter tussle between two senior officers of the State, one of whom took to social media to make allegations against the other on Sunday, Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma is learnt to have directed both not to air their opinions in public and adhere to service rules.

The development came on Monday amidst both officers -- Managing Director of Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation and IPS officer D. Roopa, and IAS officer and Endowment Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri -- meeting the Chief Secretary to complain about each other, besides explaining their stance.

Under pressure to transfer both officials for having embarrassed the government, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said that the issue and the fallout of the public spat was informally discussed at the Cabinet meeting on Monday.

"Chief Secretary has spoken to officials and both have promised to maintain discipline. The complaints are being reviewed as per rules. Till then, both have been asked to adhere to the All India Services Conduct rules," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said.

IPS officer D. Roopa leaves the Vidhana Soudha after meeting the Chief Secretary in Bengaluru on Monday. PTI

While Ms. Roopa, who had posted her comments on social media platform on Sunday attaching some of the personal photos of Ms. Sindhuri, continued her tirade on Monday too, presenting more details of personal chats on social media allegedly involving Ms. Sindhuri, the IAS officer, on the other hand, told presspersons in Vidhana Soudha that she had clarified to the Chief Secretary on all the comments made on her professional work, and her husband had responded to personal remarks. "Instead of making baseless allegations, let her (Ms. Roopa) reveal the names of officers to whom I have allegedly sent photographs," she said.

Police complaint

In a related development, Ms. Sindhuri's husband and realtor Sudhir Reddy complained to Bagalkunte police, stating that Ms. Roopa had defamed and outraged the modesty of his wife.

Accusing the IPS officer of accessing photos that were personal in nature through hacking, Mr. Reddy said Ms. Roopa had misused her official position due to personal agenda or jealousy.

Providing a detailed rebuttal on allegations hurled by Ms. Roopa on her social media account, Ms. Sindhuri had in writing not only provided explanation to the Chief Secretary, but had also sought action against the IPS officer for violating All India Services Conduct Rules.

"The very act of posting false and scandalising posts against another officer amounts to an act unbecoming of an IPS officer. Any grievance an officer has against another officer or seeks action against an officer then the prescribed method is to report with details to the government and not carry out media trial and indulge in character assassination. More so, using false statements," said her complaint to the Chief Secretary.

Ms. Roopa, who also met the Chief Secretary, submitted a complaint with a list of alleged wrong doings by Ms. Sindhuri.

She sought speedy inquiry into the already existing complaints and take up fresh inquiries on certain other matters related to corruption. Claiming that she had certain evidence in some cases, Ms. Roopa has sought to be called as witness in such investigations.

Expressing disappointment over the tussle between the two officials, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said: "The incident creates a suspicion whether the government is functioning or not."

After survey, HC allows use of new HOPCOMS building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday permitted the Krishik Samaj to use the new structure after a survey, conducted by the Assistant Director of Land Records on court's direction, found that the new building (commonly known as HOPCOMS building), is outside the boundary of Cubbon Park.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, passed the order, while modifying an earlier interim order of 2021 in which the court, though had allowed completion of the construction works, had restrained the samaj from using the new building without prior permission from the court.

The Bench, on the samaj's application to use the new building, had ordered survey of the area in which new building was constructed, to find out whether the new structure was within the notified boundaries of Cubbon Park.

Feb. survey

The survey, conducted on February 4, found that the structure was not within the boundaries of the Cubbon Park notified on November 5, 2015, by the State government.

The Bench was hearing a PIL petition filed in 2021 by the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, which had alleged that several structures were constructed within the Cubbon Park area illegally in violation of the laws.

'Deploy adequate resources to step up cybersecurity'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Banks and financial institutions, including NBFCs and cooperative banks, in the country should continuously evaluate the cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities they are exposed to and be resilient enough to combat any threat situation, said Rohit Jain, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, here on Monday.

The RBI official was delivering a keynote address on 'Cybersecurity: The Present Day Need' here as a precursor to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) and Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting, scheduled in the city between February 22 and 25.

'Be prepared'

He urged all financial institutions to be prepared for any potential impact on cybersecurity, especially when the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing and other technologies were fast emerging.

"Banks should continuously evaluate the threat profile of their critical information assets, test for vulnerabilities, and ensure resilience to cyber security risks in the present tech scenario," he further encouraged the banking community.

He said that security should be embedded in the banking processes and systems. He also emphasised the need for banks to have adequate resources to ensure cybersecurity.

"As the emerging environment is likely to expose financial institutions to various security risks, they should deploy adequate resources in terms of cybersecurity experts, security tools, and techniques and investments in IT," Mr. Jain added.

He also appealed to the audience, comprising senior officials of various banks and NBDCs, to take ownership of the emerging risk areas and periodically review the level and direction of cybersecurity risks.

Commenting on the RBI's strides in combating crimes towards attaining cyber resilience, he said that the Central bank tried to conduct a simulated phishing situation, by sending phishing emails to banks to check their threat preparedness.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (February 21, Tuesday), the following explainer is available:

- How does the gut microbiome link to autism spectrum disorders? **bit.ly/gutmicrobiomeautism**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Shivajinagar MLA seeks early settlement of claims of IMA victims

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, on Monday met Amlan Aditya Biswas, IAS, the competent authority overseeing the IMA scam cases, and requested him to expedite the disbursal of amount to victims.

In his letter to Mr. Biswas, Mr. Arshad said that the victims had incurred huge financial losses. The competent authority overseeing claims in the IMA scam has liquidated the gold and the diamond seized, up to ₹80 crore, and has funds to return to depositors who have lost their savings.

"It is heartbreaking to see the financial state of the victims of the scam. Many of the victims have lost their entire savings, and are struggling to make ends meet. In such circumstances, every rupee counts, and any delay in disbursing the amount can have severe consequences. As the funds are available, I request you to disburse the amount at the earliest," Mr. Arshad said in his letter.

"I'm glad that the claims of the victims who have invested ₹50,000 have been settled. I also understand that you are fighting the case to claim and liquidate other assets. I hope we will get justice in the court," he said in his letter.

Two persons killed in wild elephant attack in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Two persons, including a 21-year-old woman, died in a wild elephant attack in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on the foothills of the Western Ghats on Monday morning.

The Kadaba police gave the names of the deceased as Ranjitha and Ramesh Rai, 55, both residents of Naila-Renjiladi in Kadaba taluk. The woman, working with the milk cooperative society in Peradka was on her way to work when a wild elephant attacked her all of a sudden near Naila. Hearing her screams, Mr. Ramesh rushed to her help only to be attacked by the elephant in his stomach.

Ranjitha

Ramesh Rai

Both died on the spot. Kadaba police have registered a case of unnatural death.

Meanwhile, Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravi Kumar and Deputy Conservator of Forests Y.K. Dinesh Kumar visited the spot after angry residents demanded their arrival. The villagers were angry that the district administration and the Forest Department did nothing despite frequent crop damage incidents because of wild elephants and a few attacks on humans.

The Deputy Commissioner promised to provide employment to Ranjitha's sister on compassionate grounds while assuring compensation to her family. Mr. Kumar promised to take action immediately for containing the wild elephant menace in the region. He would stay back in the village and personally supervise the measures, he said.

A statement from Communist Party of India, Dakshina Kannada secretary B. Shekhar here expressed shock over the death of Mr. Rai, who had been its Kadaba taluk deputy secretary and Puttur Beedi Labour Union (AITUC) joint secretary and the death of Ms. Ranjitha.

Mr. Rai had been a social worker and was fighting for the rights of workers and the deprived.

Rushing to Ms. Ranjitha's help demonstrated his helping nature.

CPI demanded compensation of ₹40 lakh each for the victims' families.

KARNATAKA THANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.Sair Bagh, No.19/4, 2nd Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052. Off.Telephone: 080-22285561, 62, 63, 65
E-mail:ktdclit@gmail.com Website: www.banjarathanda.kar.nic.in

No: KTDCL/EST/C.R/2022-23 Date: 17.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Two Cover System (Only Through e-Procurement)

E-Tenders are invited from eligible reputed service providers for Providing Manpower Services on Out Sourcing Basis at Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation, Bangalore. Details can be obtained from this office and the e-Procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for further details, please contact Executive Engineer, Sair Bagh, No.19/4, 2nd Floor, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-52. Telephone: 080-22285561, 62, 63, 65.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work	EMD
1	Providing Manpower Services on Out Sourcing Basis at Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation, Bangalore.	Rs. 1.00 Lakhs.

Tender Processing Fee: As prescribed in e-Procurement portal. **Time Period:** 12 Months (1 Year)

Schedule of Tender Events: 1) Date of Notice inviting Tender: **20.02.2023.** 2) Pre-bid meeting: **27.02.2023 at 3:00 p.m.** 3) Last date & time for tender queries clarifications: **21.03.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.** 4) Last date & time for uploading tender: **21.03.2023 upto 5:30 p.m.** 5) Opening of Technical bids: **24.03.2023 at 11:00 a.m.** 6) Opening of Financial bids: After Technical Bid evaluation.

Sd/- Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH RAICHUR
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION RAICHUR

NO./EE/RDWS&S/RCR/TS/JJM/2022-23/2872 DATED : 16-02-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Raichur invites tenders from eligible tenderers Registered under e-procurement civil contractors in Panchayath Engineering Department, for Providing water supply scheme to below works, as per KW-3 & 4 Standard Bid Document Under JJM 2022-23 GOI&GOK Fund (90%) & Community Contribution (10%). The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table in GOK e- Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed.

1) Notification Date: 16-02-2023 2) Download of tender schedule documents online: 17-02-2023 3) Pre Bid Meeting at Office of the Executive Engineer, RDWS&S, Division, Raichur, 2nd Floor, Zilla Panchyath, Raichur: 20-02-2023 at 11:00 4)Last date for receiving of filled tender documents : 25-02-2023 at 4:30 Pm 5) Opening of Technical bid : 26-02-2023 at 5:30 Am 6) Opening of Financial bid : 27-02-2023 at 5:30 Am

Indent Nos.:- **Lingasugur**: 50172/CALL-2 **Manvi:**55044/CALL-2 **Raichur:** 49076/CALL-2 **Sindhanur:**49184/CALL-3, 53057/CALL-3, 53056/CALL-2,40010/CALL-6

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Dept. works list.

DIP/Raichur/640/K.S.M.A & C/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S. Divn, Raichur

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

ನಂ:ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈವಿ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/ಪಿಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022-23/2841 ದಿ:17-02-2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ರವರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

Badami Taluka call-2 1) Indent No- 54138 (Kendur) 137.59 Lakhs 2) Indent No- 54139 (Belavalkoppa) 110.74 Lakhs 3) Indent No- 54520 (Ugalawat) 103.44 Lakhs

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಮ್ ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24-02-2023** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, **(3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಳಾಸ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಬಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/908/2022-23/ದೇಸಪಾಂಡಪ್ಪಬಿ ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-137/2022-23/13529 Date: 20.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/EPR-51 Call-4, dated 20.02.2023 for procurement of Desktop Computers pertaining to BMAZ South Circle.

The bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging onto https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21.02.2023.Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec), Transmission (M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru – 560009. Phone: 22386686-85.

High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru

No.: D.E.04/2022 HCE 39(08)/2021 Date: 06.02.2023

NOTICE

Sri G. Lokesha, Second Division Assistant of this office is hereby intimated that a Disciplinary Enquiry was initiated against you for your unauthorized **absence for duty from 19.07.2021** and onwards. But, you have not received the Article of Charge and Statement of Imputation which were sent through RPAD to your residential address at Bengaluru and at native place Mandya District, as declared by you and also not appeared before the Specially Empowered Authority for enquiry proceedings. Therefore, you are directed to report immediately before the Specially Empowered Authority i.e. Registrar (Infrastructure & Maintenance) **on or before 30.03.2023,** to take further action in the matter, otherwise the ex-parte action will be taken against you as per Rules.

Sd/-
(Sayeedunnisa)
Registrar (Infrastructure and Maintenance) &
Specially Empowered Authority
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

DIPR/DD-C.P/4836/MCA/2022-23

INBRIEF

'Govt. keen on setting up aircraft manufacturing unit'

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday told the Legislative Assembly that his government is keen on setting up an aircraft manufacturing plant in Karnataka and discussions are on with manufacturers such as Airbus and Boeing. Mr. Bommai said 65% of the defence needs have been manufactured in Karnataka and the State is leading in attracting investments in aerospace. Agreements had been signed for projects worth ₹3,500 crore in aerospace, he said.

Shivamogga airport to be named after Kuvempu

The State Cabinet on Monday decided to name the new airport that is getting readied in Shivamogga after Jnanpith award winner Kuvempu. Recently, the Cabinet had decided to name the airport after BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa, who hails from Shivamogga. However, following criticism from different quarters, Mr. Yediyurappa requested the Chief Minister to desist from naming the airport after him. He had suggested that the new airport be named after noted poet Kuvempu.

Bill to levy uniform rates for properties to be tabled

The State Cabinet has cleared a proposal to table an amendment Bill during the ongoing legislature session to provide for enforcing uniform property taxes in Bengaluru for both A and B Khata properties. Presently, those who have constructed houses on revenue lands (B khata) are paying higher property taxes. The Cabinet has also decided to table a Bill seeking measures to provide for protection of advocates. It may be noted that the Bar Council of India had prepared a draft Bill regarding the protection of advocates in 2021. Following this, the advocates had taken up a State-wide protest seeking that the State government should bring in a similar legislation.

Corruption was over 50% in TenderSURE projects during Cong. rule: Bommai

Siddaramaiah govt. implemented only 38% of promises made in 2013 Congress manifesto, he says

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Attempting to turn the tables on the Opposition Congress which has been making allegations of "40% commission" against the BJP government in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday told the Legislative Assembly that corruption was "more than 50%" in TenderSURE projects during the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah during 2013-18.

Survey after survey had revealed that Karnataka was the most corrupt State among leading States in the country during the Siddaramaiah-led government, Mr. Bommai claimed in his reply to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the legislature. He said corruption was "53.8%" under tendersure projects in Bengaluru during the Congress government.

The Congress leaders make charges against the government without evidence, he said, alleging that the Karnataka State Contractors' Association had acted as an "agent" of the Congress.

Mr. Bommai said the Congress manifesto in 2013 had promised handsome allocations for the Upper Krishna Project, but after it came to power it did not keep its word during the entire five-year term.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Congress made 173 promises in its 2013 manifesto and the Siddaramaiah-led government implemented only 67 promises, constituting only 38%, he said.

Reeling out promises in the Congress manifesto of 2013, including establishment of veterinary hospital in each gram panchayat, establishment of a trauma centre in every 100 km on national highways among others, Mr. Bommai said only 38% were implemented. "The Congress government's Bhagya schemes have become 'Durbhagya' (bad luck) to the people of the State," he said.

Saying Congress government had performed poorly in providing drinking water to villages, the Chief Minister said the BJP government had provided 38.72 lakh tap connections to households in villages under Jal Jeevan Mission.

In just four years of the Congress government (2013-17), 3,800 farmers had committed suicide in Karnataka, highest in the country, while it had reduced sharply to 1,125 during the four years of BJP government (2019-23), Mr. Bommai said. Many farmers had succumbed to police firing in Navalgund, Navagund, Nippani, and other places during Congress rule, he said.

As many of the Congress members were absent, those present led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition U.T. Khader staged a walkout from the House.

59 cases of corruption closed by ACB referred to Lokayukta, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday told the Legislative Assembly that 59 cases of corruption which were declared "closed" during the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah will be "reopened" and referred to the Karnataka Lokayukta for further investigation.

The Siddaramaiah government not only weakened the Lokayukta by creating a separate Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) but also marked 'B' reports in cases of corruption against the Chief Minister, several Ministers, and MLAs during the Congress government. All cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act were transferred to the ACB and declared "closed" by the Siddaramaiah government, Mr. Bommai said.

All cases of corruption before the ACB are now referred to the Karnataka Lokayukta. "Let me see who is going to jail in cases of corruption," Mr. Bommai said. He also listed out cases of alleged corruption in the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) denotification.

The government was ready to investigate the charge of 40% commission made against it by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association. But the association members have failed to provide evidence to order a probe by the Lokayukta, he said.

Why target only me when six BJP-ruled States have ACBs, asks Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah on Monday defended his action of constituting the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) when he was the Chief Minister and pointed out that six BJP-ruled States, including Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, had ACBs.

Initiating a debate on the State Budget in the Assembly, Mr. Siddaramaiah took exception to the BJP accusing him of setting up the ACB to weaken the Lokayukta and "encouraging corruption." "Does it mean that the six BJP-ruled States too are abetting corruption?" he wondered.

Launching a counter-attack on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged that the BJP was levelling various corruption charges against his erstwhile regime only now, after the Congress took the BJP government to task over various alleged corruption scandals.

Documents

Pointing out that the BJP government has maintained that it would order probe into allegations only if there are documents, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had referred to eight episodes, including the death of IAS officer D.K. Ravi, for CBI probe then though there were no documents available. "In all the cases, the CBI which worked under your (BJP) government at the Centre has found no foul play as it has filed B reports," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also took exception to Mr. Bommai's statement that his government had implemented only 30% of the pre-poll promises. "I challenge the Chief Minister and the BJP to come for a public debate on implementation of pre-poll promises," he said, while maintaining that his government had implemented 157 of the 165 promises. "On the contrary, the present BJP dispensation has implemented only 10% of the 600 pre-poll promises," he claimed.

Accusing the BJP government of trying to mislead people through 2023-24 Budget presented a few days ago, Mr. Siddaramaiah contended that BJP government was able to implement only 56% of 2022-2023 budget by January end.

He wondered if it would be possible to implement the remaining 44% in less than a month as the model code of conduct was likely to be imposed anytime in the second or third week of March ahead of Assembly election.

RO drinking water plants: Legislature panel finds irregularities in tendering process; favours CID probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Karnataka legislature committee report (2021-23) on setting up and maintenance of reverse osmosis (RO) drinking water plants across the State has found gross irregularities in tendering process and management of plants by different agencies and recommended a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe to unearth more lapses.

The State has 25,219 RO drinking water plants and eight government departments/agencies have been managing them.

Tenders not called

Out of 25,219 plants, tenders have not been called to set up 2,606 plants and there was no information on calling tenders for setting up 3,591 plants, said a report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. The joint committee of both Houses of the legislature headed by Abhay Patil (BJP) said in several cases, guidelines have been violated in setting up drinking water plants across the State.

Major violations included installation of the water plants without laboratory certifications, units being installed without calling tenders, installing at a cost higher than the fixed price, and use of non BIS/ISO equipment in the RO units. There were no agreements related to the execution of 2,809 units and there was no information about agreements signed to set up 4,085 units, the report said. Out of 25,219 plants, 24,650 units are operational and power connection was given to 13,613 units. Several units malfunctioned owing to installation of low quality materials from different companies, the report said.

Cost variation

The panel found gross violation in expenditure in installing units in BBMP and rural areas. While a plant was set up in rural areas at a cost of ₹5 lakh, a sum of ₹30 lakh was spent on each plant in Bengaluru.

Eleven plants were demolished for road widening in Bengaluru and the panel suggested to the government to recover money from officials for establishing those plants.

There were many lapses in plants set up by the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd and suggested action against officials involved in setting up the plants, particularly in Hosadurga taluk.

Two persons shot dead

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Two persons were shot dead at Bidare near Khandya in Chikkamagaluru taluk on Monday. The deceased Praveen, 24, and his cousin, Prakash, 28, were allegedly shot by Ramesh, their distant relative.

HC dismisses plea by college lecturers and principals for enhancing retirement age to 65

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed the petitions filed by several lecturers, principals, and associate professors working in private aided and unaided degree colleges seeking enhancement of retirement age to 65 from the present 60 as was done for teachers serving in the State-run universities in Karnataka.

Justice S. Suni Dutt Yadav passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by Patil Malligemadu Chandrashekar and several others.

The petitioners had questioned the Government Order of enhancing retirement age to 65 only for teaching staff working in the State-run universities under the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000. Contending that government cannot discriminate among teaching staff as those working in universities and in affiliated aided and unaided, while implementing the recommendations made by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Rejecting their contentions, the court said that the method of recruitment in each of the above categories is different and distinct as also the conditions of service, and the teachers are governed by the applicable legislations and there is no identical and uniform process of recruitment or conditions of service.

"These methods would justify treating each of the categories as distinct and forming a separate class which is categorised on the basis of differentia which is to be treated as intelligible in light of the distinctiveness pointed out above. In light of the same, having different age of superannuation for these distinct categories by itself cannot be assailed as being discriminatory," the court observed.

Reiterating earlier judgments, the High Court said that the prescribing age of retirement is a policy decision of the State.

The UGC had clarified to the court that there was no automatic applicability of UGC's scheme on the age of retirement unless the States seek to adopt the scheme specifically as the Central government had left it to the decision of the States to adopt UGC's scheme on age of retirement.

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2351311, Fax:0674-2351316, Email : osamboard99@yahoo.com,
Website : www.osamboard.org

Letter No. 493 / Date - 20.02.2023

Corrigendum to RFP No.01 Dt.31.01.2023 for Implementation of AI Based Automatic Assaying Technology for Quality Assaying of Food Grains.

I. Last date for submission of RFP has been extended to 5.00 PM of 28.02.2023.
II. Date of opening the Technical Bid has been shifted to 11.00 AM of 02.03.2023
III. Date of technical representation shifted to 11.00 AM of 04.03.2023
IV. Date of Financial Evaluation shifted to 11.00 AM of 09.03.2023
All other terms & conditions will remain same along with Corrigendum No.01 Dt. 31.01.2023

Sd/-
General Manager, OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4884 : OIPR-01444/11/0024/2223

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE-2023)

No: OJEE / 084 DATE : 20.02.2023

NOTICE

In continuation to the OJEE advertisement, vide no. OJEE / 064 dated, 08-02-2023, this is for the information of all concerned that Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE - 2023) will be conducted as per the following schedule.

Courses	Date of Examinations
B.Pharm / MCA / M.Sc (Comp. Science) / MBA / Int. MBA / B.CAT / M.Tech / M.Tech (Part-Time) / M.Arch / M Plan / M.Pharm and Lateral Entry to B.Tech / B.Pharm	8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th May, 2023 (with 15th May, 2023 as reserve day)

Date, Shift and Centre details will be indicated on the Admit Cards, which can be downloaded from OJEE website from **20th April 2023** onwards.

For other details, please visit OJEE website: www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com .

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha

h-24 : OIPR-14020/11/0032/2223

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Kamala Kasturi
2.04.1933 – 20.02.2023

Balaji, Jayanthi, Venu, Indu, Lakshmi, Srinath
Madhu, Sudarshan, Dhruv
Divya, Rohan, Anika
Lavanya, Sharan, Raghav
Malavika, Vikram, Ketaki, Shiuli
Krithika, Rahul, Mihika, Ved

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

7th Death Anniversary

Mrs. Premila Varghese
W/o.T.M.Varghese

" You will Remain in our hearts forever. "

Deeply Mourned by:

T.M.Varghese & Family

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

ED gets custody of Sivasankar for 4 more days

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The custody of M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, was extended for four more days on Monday.

The CBI special court, which is considering the case booked against the former by invoking the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, allowed the request of the agency.

The Enforcement Directorate, while seeking the extended custody of the former bureaucrat, told the court that the wider involvement of Mr. Sivasankar in the alleged corruption related to the LIFE Mission project was revealed during the probe.

Kerala CM launches CPI(M)'s campaign rally in Kasaragod

Pinarayi slams Jamaat-e-Islami Hind yet again for talks with RSS, and accuses the Congress-led Opposition UDF of turning a blind eye towards the Centre's 'neglect and ill treatment' of Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a sharp attack yet again on Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) for the talks it held with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in January, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan demanded that the Muslim outfit come clean on what had transpired in the negotiations.

He was inaugurating the CPI(M)'s campaign rally, *Janakeeya Prathirodha Yatra* (People's Resistance Yatra), led by party State Secretary M.V. Govindan from Kasaragod on Monday. The rally will cover 140 constituencies in Kerala and conclude in the State capital on March 18.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan handing over the party flag to M.V. Govindan to mark the inauguration of the yatra. S.K. MOHAN

He said that some within the Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League are openly backing the JIH and its political front, Welfare Party of India, which raises many questions.

Launching an all-out attack against the Congress-led Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) for turning a blind eye towards the Centre's "neglect and ill treatment" of Kerala, he accused the UDF of toeing the BJP line.

Meanwhile, the Kannur Police either arrested or put in preventive detention 19 Congress and Youth Congress workers for waving black flags at Mr. Vijayan's convoy.

Kerala Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said in Kozhikode that Mr. Vijayan was becoming a laughing stock because of his aversion to black colour.

(With inputs from Kannur)

Kerala is witnessing a fascist regime: BJP State chief

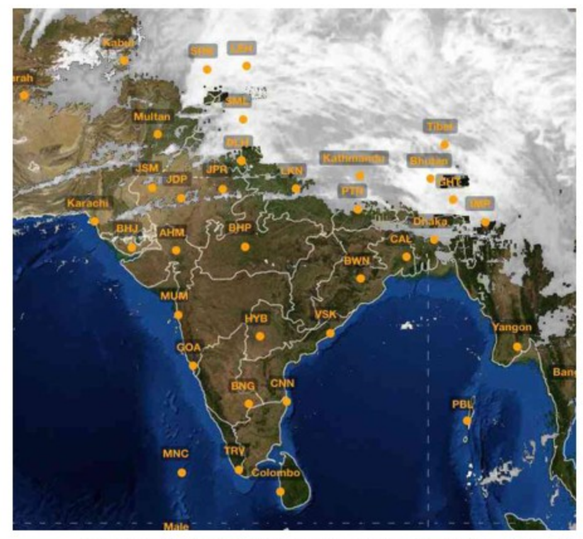
The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

BJP national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam on Monday opended a State-level meet of BJP functionaries at Mararji Bhavan in Kozhikode.

Delivering an address at the meet, BJP State president K. Surendran said Kerala was witnessing a fascist administration under the leadership of a totally isolated Chief Minister who was troubling poor citizens. Flaying the CPI(M) leaders' Kerala-wide rally against the "anti-people policies" of the Centre, he said it was actually meant to liberate their own party from the clutches of goons and drug traffickers.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.5	18.6	Kozhikode	—	34.7	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	37.2	16.0	Kurnool	—	36.1	20.3
Aizawl	—	29.5	12.4	Lucknow	—	31.5	15.0
Allahabad	—	33.1	13.0	Madurai	—	35.2	22.1
Bengaluru	—	31.2	18.0	Mangaluru	—	32.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	—	14.2	Mumbai	—	33.1	21.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.3	20.2	Mysuru	—	30.2	16.2
Chandigarh	—	30.4	15.2	New Delhi	—	33.6	13.1
Chennai	—	34.5	21.0	Patna	—	30.0	14.2
Coimbatore	—	33.7	21.2	Port Blair	—	30.4	22.8
Dehradun	—	29.6	13.0	Puducherry	—	33.0	20.6
Gangtok	2	13.0	10.8	Pune	—	35.0	15.4
Goa	—	34.4	22.4	Raipur	—	35.0	18.5
Guwahati	—	29.9	17.5	Ranchi	—	31.0	15.6
Hubballi	—	36.0	18.0	Shillong	—	19.2	10.0
Hyderabad	—	33.7	18.8	Shimla	—	19.7	11.6
Imphal	—	27.8	11.1	Srinagar	—	15.0	5.3
Jaipur	—	34.2	17.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	24.2
Kochi	—	32.6	24.0	Tiruchi	—	33.5	21.6
Kohima	—	21.4	8.4	Vijayawada	—	34.2	21.6
Kolkata	—	31.6	21.5	Visakhapatnam	—	31.8	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	38	150	57	255	195	
Bengaluru	4	27	32	322	—	
Chennai	21	28	41	141	107	
Delhi	14	177	73	423	368	
Hyderabad	—	60	79	142	138	
Kolkata	8	35	55	77	84	
Lucknow	16	74	94	270	216	
Mumbai	24	55	113	321	196	
Pune	102	136	113	195	132	
Visakhapatnam	8	39	42	59	107	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 413 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 42

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

One for the album

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah arriving for a group photograph in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mahindra Percussion Festival in Bengaluru on March 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to host the "Mahindra Percussion Festival", a celebration of Indian and global percussion music and art forms, presented by the Mahindra Group.

The event at Jaymahal Palace on March 18 intends to be a first-of-its-kind platform that will traverse various music genres that will feature performances by home-grown and international percussion artists. It also promises to foster collaborations with ensembles from around the globe.

"Crafted to extend beyond just music, Mahindra Percussion Festival will be an all-around sensorial festival enthralling audiences with a curated food and beverage experience complementing the festival's high-spirited vibe," said the presenters of the event. Among the participant artistes are Arto Tunçboyaciyan, Grammy award winning percussionist, vocalist, and composer and Chemmeen Band, a contemporary band based in Cochin.

The Mahindra Percussion Festival, in association with The Hindu Group, is co-sponsored by Carlsberg Soda, and is promoted and produced by Hyperlink Brand Solutions.

Tickets for the festival are open. Log on to bookmyshow.com

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.

No.: EE/RDWS&SD/HPT/JJM/E-Proc Tender/JE/2022-23/3184 Dated:20.02.2023

E-tender Notification-23/2022-23.
(KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Harapanahalli hereby invites the tender for FY-2022-23 JJM FHTC (Retrofitting) works in Harapanahalli 3Works , Kudligi 20Works , Hagribommanahalli 02Work , of Vijayanagara District through e-procurement. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Website**. The period to receive the tender from eligible bidders is from **20-02-2023 to 01-03-2023 at 5.10PM** and date of **opening of technical bid is on 02-03-2023 at 5.10 PM**, **opening of Financial bid is on 04.03.2023 at 11.00 AM & Pre bid meeting is held on 27.02.2023 at 11.00 AM** in the office of, Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division Hospet Vijayanagara District For further more information contact above said Office..

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District
DIPR/Vijayanagar/384/KSMCA/2022-23

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block Jayanagar, Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru – 560011

Tender Notification No. EE/CKP/E-PROC/18/2022-23 Date: 20.02.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Single cover) (Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Chickpete Division), BBMP, Bengaluru Invite tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate Cost (In Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs.)
1	Engaging Tractor and labour for Ward Maintenance and removal of Silt in Ward No. 172 (Darmarayaswamy Temple) **(3rd Call)**	15.00	37500
2	Engaging Tractor and labour for Ward Maintenance and removal of Silt in Ward No. 173 (Sunkenahalli) **(2nd Call)**	15.00	37500

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date for uploading the Fill Tender Document is 28.02.2023 up to 4.00 p.m. (2) Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders in on 01.03.2023 by 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
Phone No: 0836-2747944, Email.ID :eepwddha@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕ್ರಸಂ : ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಲೋಇ/ಧಾ/ಪಿಬಿ-2,5/ಟೆಂಡರ/2022-23/10679
ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 17/02/2023

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ (e-Procurement) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 4059/5054/5054 NAB/3054
W I No: 164630, 165074 , 165078, 165412 & 155738
WORK_INDENT NO. – 164630, 165074 , 165078, 165412 & 155738
ಒಟ್ಟು = **05**
(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ-ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24.02.2023** (ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆ) (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **27.02.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆ) (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **28.02.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆ) (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **01.03.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/1129/2022-23

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-560 099
ಫೋನ್: 080-27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com
ಸಂ:ಪು.TMCB/ENG/MF/07/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KWರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 270.84 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಏಕ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.03.2023ರ ಸಮಯ 17:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.03.2023ರ ಸಮಯ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ : (**itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com**) ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/4817/2022-23

ಸಹಿ/-
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
FINANCE DEPARTMENT VIDHANA SOUDHA, Bangalore

No. FD 03 BMB 2022 **Bengaluru, February 20, 2023**

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.65% Karnataka SDL 2023** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka,** Finance Department Notification No. FD 01 BMB 2012 dated **March 15, 2013** will be repaid at par on **March 20, 2023** with interest due up to and including **March 19, 2023.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accure on the loan from and after March 20, 2023.**

2. As per sub-regulation 24(2) and 24(3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced/registered for payment of interest, as the case my be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to faciliate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.65% Karnataka SDL 2023** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate"

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to recieve payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury/Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/-
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources)
Finance Department

DIPR/CP/VCPL/4831/2022-23

Tumakuru Smart city Limited,
Tumakuru
Sri Mahalakshmi Arcade, S.S Puram Main Road, Coffee Board Colony, Tumakuru-572102
Website: www.smartcitytumakuru.in Phone: 0816-2278190 email: smartcitytumakuru@gmail.com CIN:U74999KA2017PLC099774
No:TSCL/Tender/CR/07,08,&09,10/2022-23 Date: 13.02.2023

Short Term Tender Notification

Tenders have been invited from eligible Suppliers / Agencies / Manufacturers for the following works of Tumakuru Smart City Limited. The eligible Bidders may apply by downloading the Tender Document through e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. For more information contact Smart City Office number 0816-2278190 and e-portal help desk number 080-22340948.

Name of the Work : 1. Supply & Installation of Equipment for Gymnastic Centre at Tumakuru. **Amount put to tender :** 0.61Crores. **EMD Rs.**1,23,700/-. **Last date for bid submission:** 28-02-2023. **Bid opening Date:** 01-03-2023. 2. Supply & Installation of Furniture for MG Stadium at Tumakuru. **Amount put to tender :** 3.50Crores. **EMD Rs.**5,25,000/- **Last date for bid submission:** 07-03-2023 **Bid opening Date:** 08-03-2023 3. Enhancement of CCTV surveillance and signalling in Tumakuru **Amount put to tender :** 2.50Crores **EMD Rs.**3,75,000/- **Last date for bid submission:** 07-03-2023 **Bid opening Date:** 08-03-2023. 4 EOI (Expression of Interest) for Smart Lounge at Amanikere premises at Tumkur – Operation and Maintenance. **Amount put to tender :- EMD Rs.**25,000/- **Last date for bid submission:** 07-03-2023 **Bid opening Date:** 08-03-2023

Note: Any change of date and other information of these tenders will be notified only in e-procurement portal and no further publications in Newspaper.

Sd/- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Tumkakuru Smart City Limited, Tumakuru

DIPR/TUM/985/KSMCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-2/2022-23/13330-34 Date: 15.02.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per the Central Electricity Authority, (CEA Regulation-Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) residing in the building constructed, constructing new residential buildings, Industries, commercial establishments etc under and close to overhead lines of KPTCL without safety clearance is prohibited in view of the safety of public and property. Constructing buildings / temporary sheds close to electric towers, tying banners and buntings to the tower, walking, flying kites and drying clothes on top of the buildings constructed close to or below EHT power lines violating regulations is very dangerous which may result in casualties or even death and loss of properties.

In view of safety, it is the responsibility of public to maintain sufficient clearance from overhead lines compulsorily as below. Hence it is requested to demolish the portion of the building which is not having sufficient clearance as per C.E.A (Measures relating to Safety and Electric supply) Regulations 2010 and to avoid the above unsafe activities.

	66kV	220kV	400kV
Horizontal	2.3 Mtrs.	3.8 Mtrs.	5.6 Mtrs.

We would like to make it clear that, KPTCL will not be held responsible for any accidents caused due to construction of building below/close to overhead lines violating regulation/ unsafe activities. The owners of those buildings / people residing in those buildings and the department which is providing basic necessity to those buildings will be held responsible for the same

This notification is issued in public interest.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,Tr(M), BMAZ, North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09, Phone: 080-22386686/85.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
MLI Division No-2 Babaleshwar- 586 113.
Phone:08355-283011
E-mail ID: eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/MLID-2/PB-4/SCP-TSP –MP-21-22/2022-23/2003
Date:17.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2nd CALL
(Through e-Procurement only)

Ref: This office tender Notification No: 1836 Dated: 31.01.2023

In continuation of tender notification at above reference, tender is invited 2nd call **tender on KW-2 & 3** from KPWD Class-I & Class II Contractors for 4 Nos of works under SCP head for the year 2021-22 under Vijayapur MP Constituency 1] Indent No.23532 for Rs.20.42 lakhs [SCP-Borewell-ST Contractor-Single Cover] 2] Indent No.23531 for Rs.45.98 lakhs [SCP-Borewell-SC Contractor-Single Cover], 3] Indent No.23530 for Rs.91.93 lakhs [SCP-Borewell-General Contractor-Two cover] 4] Indent No.23528 for Rs.97.06 lakhs [SCP-Borewell-General Contractor-Two cover] & 03 Nos of works under TSP head 1] Indent No.23518 for Rs.40.87 lakhs [TSP-Borewell-SC Contractor-Single Cover],2] Indent No.23517 for Rs.91.93 lakhs [TSP-Borewell-General Contractor-Two cover] & 3] Indent No.23516 for Rs.91.95 lakhs [TSP-Borewell-General Contractor-Two cover]

Issue and submission of E-tender documents

1] The Contractor can have access to e-tender document from **20.02.2023 to 01.03.2023** up to 5.00 PM. 2] Cover-1 [Technical bid] will be opened **on 03.03.2023 at 11.00 AM.** 3] Cover-2 [Financial bid] will be opened **on 06.03.2023 at 11.00 AM** in the office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No.2 Babaleshwar.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or **www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in** and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division-2, Babaleshwar
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/908/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

Reform reluctance

The sense of urgency to fix the GST regime's flaws seems to have ebbed

Meeting in person after nearly eight months, the GST Council last Saturday reached a broad consensus on establishing GST Appellate Tribunals to resolve disputes under the tax regime launched in July 2017. After some fine print changes in consultations with States, the Finance Ministry hopes to include the legislative backing for the tribunals in the Finance Bill likely to be passed next month. This raises hopes of quicker disposal of GST disagreements that are adding to courts' caseloads, but the reason for delaying this vital cog of the 'One Nation, One Tax' promise is difficult to fathom. A few rate changes that could make, among other things, pencil sharpeners a tad cheaper, and lower penal charges for delayed filings by smaller taxpayers also got the Council's nod. The implications of some other moves, like a new system for evasion-prone sectors such as *gutkha*, will depend on the minutiae in their notifications. A much-deferred review of the GST on online gaming and casinos remains stuck. The stated reason for not taking it up this time was that the chief of the ministerial group entrusted with the issue had Assembly poll work. With nine Assembly elections scheduled this year, that does not augur well for the Council's ability to resolve prickly issues faster this year.

Of greater concern is the stalling of the rationalisation of the complex GST rate structure with multiple slabs, and critical inputs left out. A Group of Ministers (GoM) was tasked, in late 2021, to propose a fix for anomalies in GST levies such as inverted duty structures, and propose revised rates with fewer slabs. The Council was informed that GST was still not delivering enough revenues – with the aggregate tax rate close to 12% rather than the 15.5% revenue-neutral rate envisaged originally, "knowingly or unknowingly" due to rate cuts on some items between 2017 and 2021. While some anomalies flagged by the GoM were fixed last June, the Centre had signalled the rates' rejig would be deferred as inflation had surged and any revision would mean higher taxes for some items. The report on rate reforms is still awaited, inflation remains a headache and the onset of an electoral season culminating with the Lok Sabha election in 2024, means the same dithering logic holds true. Tighter compliance and higher prices have also bolstered average GST revenues, perhaps diluting the urgency to fix the unwieldy tax tangle. But for taxpayers, who continue to pay 28% GST on as essential an item as cement – whether it is used to build a roof over one's head or construct an expressway – a truly good and simple tax system will now likely have to wait till at least 2025.

House of horrors

Authorities must not ignore what happens in homes run by NGOs

It is inconceivable that flagrant violations of law and human rights happen in plain sight, and when intervention finally happens, it is already too late for some. The case in point is the Anbu Jothi Ashram case in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district where – entirely by accident – the lid was blown off dark secrets and happenings inside the home. The issue came to light when police followed the thread of man missing complaints. Then one sordid fact after the other came to light, including sexual and physical abuse, bizarre scare tactics and even trafficking. The unlicensed home – the name translates to 'flame of love' – was providing shelter to persons on the fringes of society, physically and socially in need of support. It had been accommodating destitute women, abandoned senior citizens, beggars, alcohol addicts and persons with mental retardation or illness. Residents who were rescued later told tales of how they were held down with a mixture of fear, terror, and perversion; the owners also used monkeys to terrorise them. The home had been running for years until police first entered its premises last week to arrest four employees for running the centre without a valid permit. A total of 142 residents were rescued and relocated. Subsequently, as women residents of the home made sexual assault and torture charges against the owner Jubin Baby and his wife Maria, police arrested the couple. Another unit run by them near Puducherry was closed down and over 20 residents rescued. Following up, the National Commission for Women recorded testimonies of the rescued women, and the investigation has been handed over to the CB-CID.

The Anbu Jothi Ashram case should never have happened, given the safety mechanisms provided by the law, and rules crafted and enforced by the State. All care homes should be registered and periodic assessments carried out to allow them to continue to operate. How did this institution slip through the cracks? Laws in the social sector that serve persons in disadvantageous circumstances, must leave no loophole, no cracks that can be exploited. This case certainly speaks to chronic neglect in the sector, despite periodic exhortations and even raids on care homes to check their credentials. Exploitation in the social sector is particularly intolerable; it is tantamount to allowing the fence to eat the crop. Monitoring and supervision in the sector need to be fool-proof and corruption-free. Not only should authorities document every last flagrant violation at the ashram but also make an example of it – to serve as a crushing deterrent to any one who might toy with the idea of abusing those who seek sanctuary.

Slow progress to creating a safe workplace for women

R.K. Vij

is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh

The recent case of allegations of sexual harassment that some of India's sportswomen (wrestling) are said to have faced have shocked us. Those affected had to sit in protest in the capital to make themselves heard. This shows that any internal complaints committee (if there is one) does not function. Or, the wrestlers were not aware about it. The Vishaka guidelines on reporting harassment are meant to be followed by government and private institutions equally. In view of the sensitivity of the issue, the Union Sports Minister constituted an 'oversight committee' headed by a lady Olympic medal holder to investigate the charges levelled against the president of the Wrestling Federation of India.

Earlier, in February 2021, a leading woman journalist celebrated her victory – not because the accused person who has harassed her sexually was convicted, but because she was acquitted of accusations of defamation that have been levelled against her by the accused. The 'truth' of victimisation prevailed and it was held that a woman cannot be punished for raising her voice against abuse. She had raised her voice against her employer and a powerful politician. Though a specific offence relating to 'sexual harassment' (under Section 354-A) was inserted in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 2013, the allegations largely fell under Section 509 (i.e., to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC. The victim chose not to report the matter to the police, and there was no internal mechanism in place for the redress of complaints of sexual harassment as the Vishaka guidelines were framed by the Supreme Court of India in 1997. But this did not give the employer any liberty to violate the fundamental rights of a woman at the workplace.

Structural violence, data on workforce

Violence, in the form of sexual harassment at the workplace, is both direct and structural. While an enabling environment for reporting direct violence has shown a gradual improvement, indirect violence remains poorly addressed because it is embedded deep in our social and economic structures. It is more visible in the employment imbalance prevalent between men and women, in the organised and unorganised sectors. With more men at the workplace, they feel entitled and empowered to take undue advantage of the historical fact that the society is still patriarchal and women are not only in a minority but also occupy a few of the higher positions.

> Unless society works incessantly to change the prevalent socio-cultural and economic structures, it could well be status quo

The numbers matter when it comes to power emanating from the majority. One musters courage to voice one's grievance when there are sufficient numbers in support of the affected person. Also, much would depend on the tooth-to-tail ratio of any organisation. When the number of women in leadership positions are not enough to generate confidence in subordinates, women in lower positions feel reluctant to air their grievances.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report available for 2020-21 shows that though the participation of women in the total labour force grew, i.e., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has gradually increased from 17.5% in 2017-18 to 25.1% in 2020-21, and the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) from 16.5% in 2017-18 to 24.2% in 2020-21, it is still much less when compared to men. The LFPR and WPR data published in the latest *Quarterly Bulletin* (April-June 2022) are not encouraging either. While LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force among the persons in population (i.e., both employed and unemployed or seeking employment), WPR is the percentage of persons employed among the persons in population.

Start early, and at home

The absence of an enabling and safe working environment is one of the factors for the poor participation of women in the labour force. It is generally believed that most women do not complain of sexual harassment and the current redress mechanism is either non-existent or ineffective. They are more vulnerable to exploitation by their employer as they can be easily threatened with their job continuity for indecent favours.

Unless the mindset of treating men and women as equals is developed at an early stage of character formation during childhood, the stereotyped power relation between the two would be difficult to change later.

It would not be out of context to mention here a theory of criminology known as 'nature versus nurture'. It says that both genetics and the environment affect an individual's development. While genes may decide certain features of one's personality at birth, it is social conditioning and the environment of the family and early schooling which matter the most during the growth of children. Unless both parents respect each other and treat their girl and boy child on a par in all respects, they grow up learning this inequality as a normal phenomenon, which may even lead to the development of criminal tendencies in men. Therefore, the beginning has to be made at home.

Fixing goals

Similarly, providing a safe work environment is the responsibility of the employer. The employer needs to ensure that the working environment is safe and women friendly. However, it has been observed that whenever allegations of sexual harassment are levelled against superior authorities, instead of getting the complaint inquired into expeditiously under the law, i.e., the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), Act, 2013, the accused either resorts to multiple attempts at litigation to stall the due process or attempts to bring disrepute to the victim on flimsy grounds. The situation becomes more complex when the accused himself is at the helm of affairs, as in the examples given above.

Therefore, it is essential to fix goals to improve the workplace environment for women. The short-term goals may include providing the requisite women-friendly infrastructure, the constitution of internal complaint committees, and the spreading of awareness about the law and procedure of grievance redress.

Medium-term goals may include the increase of female participation in the labour force, improvement of tooth-to-tail ratio, and providing incentives to prevent drop-outs such as paid maternity leave. However, in the long-run, it is essential to address the deep-rooted structural and cultural violence which puts women in a disadvantageous position. Unless society as a whole works incessantly to bring about the required changes in the existing socio-cultural and economic structures to eliminate indirect violence, root and branch, the status quo may not change.

The views expressed are personal

A 'democratisation' that is more a fallacy

Ruchi Gupta

is the Executive Director of the Future of India Foundation

"Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation," said Oscar Wilde.

From the beginning, social media platforms have trumpeted that they have 'democratised' self-expression. In important ways, this is true. Social media platforms have facilitated the circumvention of elite and/or authoritarian gatekeeping and have brought new voices into the public sphere. This has had a decidedly mixed effect on the public sphere. However, the impact of social media on democratic discourse is a separate debate. The purpose here is to dig deeper into the premise that social media platforms have democratised self-expression.

An abridgement of the long form

A review of the trajectory of self-expression on social media shows a trend towards increasing brevity and homogeneity. The early days of online discourse centered around long-form text on blogs and message boards. This required individuals to think through the substance of what they wanted to say and then articulate it in their own words to communicate to their audience. Even if the content itself was nonsensical, it required conscious engagement, certainly from the writer but also the reader, who would need to specifically seek out that particular content and spend time reading and responding to it in her own words. With the advent of social media, long-form text has gone through a series of abridgements, from posts to tweets to retweets, likes, memes, and emojis.

Now, one of the most striking things about online communication is how little people speak. Speak in their own words that is. It is worth asking at what point in this trajectory does engagement stop being a form of self-expression but instead becomes a tool for mass homogenisation. It is unclear how by repeatedly replacing one's own words with those of another individual (through retweets, likes and memes) or a corporation (via emojis), any individual can find her own voice. This question is relevant also because the time spent on these discrete engagements is too fleeting to allow active involvement. Does a retweet or like indicate 100% endorsement or merely fluid alignment with the "spirit" of the content? And, if we do not take the time to reflect and articulate specifically what we feel, instead of merely reiterating someone else, does it qualify as self-expression?

> Even as social media platforms have brought new voices into the public sphere, it is worth looking deeper into the premise — of their democratisation of self-expression

This question needs to be asked because social media moulds expression to fit its own format instead of vice versa. Retweets and likes are binary instruments which leave no room for personal nuance. Memes and emojis constrain articulation to the selection at hand, shaping instead of facilitating self-expression. Are people really laughing till they are crying as the popular emoji (a smiley) seems to suggest? And if not, does its use denote self-expression or artifice shaped by an external platform? What too of the ambiguity which gets injected into communication due to variable interpretations by different individuals for various emojis and memes?

Social media also forces brevity – due to its format and the larger ecosystem it has spawned – which shows up not just as typographical errors and poor grammar but also constraints on the possibilities of what can be said. This limits, instead of enhancing, the fullness of self-expression.

However, it is not just the structure of social media platforms which inhibits self-expression but also the incentives. An important emerging discussion focuses on how the incentives of social media shape the discourse by privileging antagonism, snark and outrage over dialogue and reason. This in turn prods individuals to become more antagonistic and outrageous with the effect that the medium dictates the message. This influence of the medium on the message is visible also in making virality the primary determinant of value instead of the substance of the message itself.

The 'creator economy'

The ability of social media platforms to abridge expression is also playing out in the so-called "creator economy". In order to improve user stickiness and engagement, social media platforms have started compensating users for original audiovisual content. While sites such as YouTube allowed individuals to create their own video channels and shared ad-revenue based on views, platforms have increasingly moved to shorter video formats ranging from 15 to 60 seconds. These videos are served up algorithmically and there are many reports of befuddled creators trying to hack the algorithm and make their content go viral. It is unclear, in this mix of super short videos, preoccupation with algorithms, and directed viewers, whether the creator has or can have a specific point of view and if there is much room for "self-expression". In fact, a significant portion of "content" is merely rehashed cuts of existing content.

With the emergence of generative AI such as ChatGPT and Dall-E for text and images, respectively, there is a high possibility that "self-expression" will be further diminished by making it easy to generate content without requiring the individual to apply herself in any meaningful manner.

The undeniable fact is that social media platforms are a capitalist enterprise. Even though capitalism seemingly thrives on increasing user choice, standardisation and mass production are natural corollaries of capitalism. Social media platforms thus promote ever greater homogenisation and mass production of ready-made expressions such as memes and emoji because they are interested not in promoting self-expression but engagement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leaving India

In an ideal democracy, everyone can experience better opportunities, health care, a life of quality and good education. In this context, high net-worth individuals from India making a beeline to the U.S., Portugal, Australia, Malta and Greece (Page 1, February 20) is puzzling. To be fair, the previous UPA government too witnessed such migration. But for a record number of Indians renouncing Indian citizenship in 2022, under the watch of this government and a leader who has plans of becoming a 'Vishwa Guru', sets one thinking.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Have a commission

The recent statement of the former Chief Justice of India, Justice U.U. Lalit, that the collegium system is by far the best for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary cannot be accepted at face value. Apart from the collegium not being a creature of the Constitution but a creation of the judges, records show that there have been many shortfalls in its functioning leave alone its opaqueness and lack of accountability. In 2013, over a thousand lawyers of the Punjab Bar protested against the selection of judges to that court, calling them nepotist and falling short of any standard. Today, judges selecting judges has become the most controversial subject touching on the independence of the judiciary. It is time we take leave of the interpretation of the word 'consultation' as amounting to 'consent' of the judiciary. Instead, there should be an effective and meaningful consultation of a broad-based body in terms of constitutional values. Therefore, what is needed is a judicial appointments commission where constitutional representatives other than the judges are included to ensure checks and balances.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Den of abuse

The manner in which the inmates of the Villupuram ashram in Tamil Nadu — mentally challenged women, disabled and destitute women, abandoned senior citizens and alms-seekers — were treated by the owners and their employees is unpardonable, to say the least. That these criminals pounced on the hapless inmates, drugging them, torturing them and even sexually abusing them, has been horrifying to read. The perpetrators need to be tried in a specially formed fast- track court. The heartless beasts need severe punishment.

Anna Mary Yvonne,
Chennai

It was blood-curdling to read that ferocious monkeys were unleashed on the unfortunate inmates to instil fear in them. The charges of torture, sexual exploitation and monkey attacks must be probed. One shudders to imagine the plight of the inmates who had to suffer in silence. It is mysterious how the Tamil Nadu government was in the dark about how the ashram was being run.

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The problems with the Data Protection Bill

Anjali Bhardwaj
is a member of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information

Amrita Johri
is a member of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has drafted a Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill with the stated purpose of providing "for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process personal data for lawful purposes..." A data protection law must safeguard and balance peoples' right to privacy and their right to information, which are fundamental rights flowing from the Constitution. Unfortunately, this Bill fails on both counts. There are at least four reasons why the Bill must be put through a process of rigorous pre-legislative consultation and redrafted before it makes its way to Parliament.

Diluting the RTI Act

First, the Bill seeks to dilute the provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, which has empowered citizens to access information and hold governments accountable. Experience has shown that if people, especially the poor and marginalised, are to have any hope of obtaining the benefits of welfare programmes, they must have access to relevant, granular information. For instance, the National Food Security Act recognises the need for placing the details of ration card holders and records of ration shops, including sale and stock registers, in the public domain to enable social audits of the public distribution system. In the absence of publicly accessible information, it is impossible for intended beneficiaries to access their rightful entitlement of food grains. This is equally true for delivery of other social security programmes such as old age pensions and scholarships. It is behind the cloak of secrecy that the rights of individuals are most frequently abrogated and corruption thrives. In recognition of this principle, democracies ensure public disclosure of voters' lists with names, addresses and other details to enable scrutiny and prevent electoral fraud.

The RTI Act includes a provision to protect privacy through Section 8(1)(j). In order to invoke this Section to deny personal information, at least one of the following grounds has to be proven: the information sought has no relationship to any public activity or public interest or is such that it would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy and the Public Information Officer is satisfied that there is no larger public interest that justifies disclosure. The proposed Bill seeks to amend this Section to expand its purview and exempt all personal information from the ambit of the RTI Act.

Further, under the RTI Act, exemptions are not absolute. A key provision for limiting the exemptions is the proviso to Section 8(1) which states that "information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person." The government has erred in interpreting this proviso as being applicable only to the privacy exemption of the RTI law. There are several judicial pronouncements stating that it is applicable to all exemptions. Based on an incorrect understanding of the RTI Act, this provision is sought to be deleted.

The DPDP Bill needs to be suitably amended and harmonised with the provisions and objectives of the RTI Act. This would be in line with the recommendation of the Justice A.P. Shah Report on privacy that the "Privacy Act should clarify that publication of personal data for public interest... and disclosure of information as required by the Right to Information Act should not constitute an infringement of Privacy." Neither the recognition of the right to privacy, nor the enactment of a data protection law requires any amendment to the existing RTI law.

Second, by empowering the executive to draft rules on a range of issues, the proposed Bill creates wide discretionary powers for the Central government and thus fails to safeguard people's right to privacy. For instance, under Section 18, it empowers the Central government to exempt any government, or even private sector entities, from the provisions of the Bill by merely issuing a notification.

Government control

Third, given that the government is the biggest data repository, it was imperative that the oversight body set up under the law be adequately independent to act on violations of the law by government entities. The Bill does not ensure autonomy of the Data Protection Board, the institution responsible for enforcement of provisions of the law. The Central government is empowered to determine the strength and composition of the Board and the process of selection and removal of its chairperson and other members. Further, the chief executive responsible for managing the Board is to be appointed by the government, which gives the government direct control over the institution. The Central government is also empowered to assign the Board any functions "under the provisions of this Act or under any other law." The creation of a totally government-controlled Data Protection Board, vested with the powers of a civil court and empowered to impose fines up to ₹500 crore, is bound to raise serious apprehensions of its misuse by the executive.

Finally, the Bill stipulates that the Data Protection Board shall be 'digital by design', including receipt and disposal of complaints. As per the latest National Family Health Survey, only 33% of women in India have ever used the Internet. The DPDP Bill, therefore, effectively fails millions of people who do not have meaningful access to the Internet.

The Bill must be put through a process of rigorous pre-legislative consultation and redrafted before it makes its way to Parliament

More animals, less forest cover

The government's conservation policies are at odds with its development plans

STATE OF PLAY

R. Krishna Kumar
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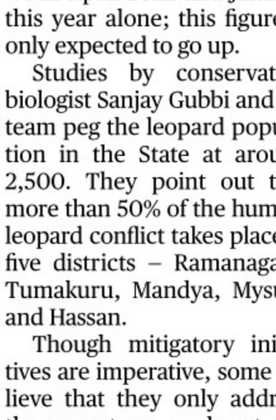
In recent years, Karnataka has been grappling with an increase in man-animal conflicts, which have brought wildlife and forest conservation issues to the fore and led to questions about the State's response to them. Earlier this month, a 70-year-old man belonging to the Jenu Kuruba community and his 12-year-old grandson were killed in separate tiger attacks on the boundary of the Nagarahole National Park near Kutta in Kodagu district.

According to the Forest Department, during 2020-21, there were 24,740 cases related to crop damage by wild animals; 3,019 cases of cattle kill; and 36 human deaths in the State. The compensation paid in all the cases put together was ₹21.64 crore. In 2021-22, cases of crop damage caused by wild animals increased to 31,225; the number of cattle kill went up to 4,052; and 40 human deaths were reported. The compensation paid exceeded ₹27.4 crore. In the current year, over ₹20 crore has already been paid by way of compensation. And once the pending applications are processed, this figure is expected to cross ₹40 crore.

The cost of the conflict, both in terms of deaths and crop damage, is being borne by the people living on the forest fringes and in villages. This means there could be less local support for wildlife conservation. To address this, the authorities have thought of mitigatory plans to reduce conflicts. These include fencing villages abutting forest boundaries with discarded rail fences, and relocating elephants



and tigers from conflict zones.

Following the spike in human-leopard conflicts in south Karnataka, where four human deaths took place over a span of a few months in T. Narasipura taluk of Mysuru district, the Forest Department is now toying with the idea of creating two or three separate enclosures or rescue centres. Each of these will have the capacity to house 250 leopards that have been tranquillised and captured in conflict zones. Nearly 130 leopards have been captured from conflict zones in Karnataka between April 2022 and January this year alone; this figure is only expected to go up.

Studies by conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi and his team peg the leopard population in the State at around 2,500. They point out that more than 50% of the human-leopard conflict takes place in five districts – Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Mandya, Mysuru and Hassan.

Though mitigatory initiatives are imperative, some believe that they only address the symptoms and not the cause. This is because the increase in conflicts and the rise in human deaths is perceived to be a direct fallout of the government's conservation measures on the one hand and development policies on the other, which are at odds with each other. As a consequence, the environment gets short shrift.

When the wildlife population was increasing due to protection measures, the area under forest cover should have been expanded by creating buffer zones. Such areas could have acted as sinks to absorb the rise in animal population and provided connectivity for animal migration. But the converse happened in Karnataka. Forests have either shrunk or been disturbed with the government clearing infrastructure projects by diverting forest land for non-forestry purposes.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, when human-animal conflict reached a new high, more than 450 hectares of forest land were diverted for as many as 39 projects including mining, road construction, irrigation, windmills and railway lines. The total land area under forest cover in 2012-13 was 43,356.47 sq km, or 22.61% of the State's land area. This has declined to 4,0591.97 sq km, or 21.16% of the land area, in 2021-22.

Conservationists argue that procuring plantations and land abutting forest areas can augment and strengthen the buffer zone and help reduce conflicts. But instead of securing forests, the existing forest land is being diverted for other reasons. The government has also opposed the Union Environment Ministry's notification on Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats that could help protect green cover. Last year, it denotified 6.5 lakh ha of deemed forest. If policies such as these, which are detrimental to the environment, are not reversed, the impact of mitigation measures to reduce conflicts will be neutralised and human-animal conflicts will only escalate in the days ahead.

Law to raise marital age is not enough as enforcement is poor

Over 60% Indian women aged 25-29 in 2019-21 married before their 21st birthday

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

On Monday, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking to increase the minimum age of marriage of women in India from 18 years to 21 years. The Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, noted that the power to amend the law lies with Parliament.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021. The Bill proposes to raise the age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. But after Opposition MPs demanded greater scrutiny of the Bill, it was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The MP from Kollam, N.K. Premachandran, wanted to know "whether this law was enforceable or not"; the MP from Thoothukkudi, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, sought opinions from civil society; and the MP from Baramati, Supriya Sule, wanted the House to "unanimously pass reforms related to women".

Back then, MPs had raised questions about the enforceability of the law, the Bill's attack on personal laws, and the poor labour force participation of young women.

The caution exercised by the Supreme Court and the advice of the Opposition MPs to scrutinise the Bill before passing it is well grounded. This is because, despite the legal age of marriage for women being 18 years, almost 23% of women who were aged between 20 and 24 years in 2019-21 married before their 18th birthday. In fact, in the eastern States of Bihar and West Bengal, the share was over 40% (**Map 1**). In Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, the share was over 25%. The share was below 10% in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, among other States.

Despite such a high share of women marrying before turning 18 years, only 1,050 cases were registered under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. Such a small number of cases shows that reportage of underage marriages is negligible, resulting in limited enforcement of the law. These figures may go up in 2023 given the massive crackdown in Assam on child marriages leading to over 3,000 cases.

With the Bill proposing to raise the legal age from 18 to 21, the question of enforcement gets even bigger. In India, over 60% of women who were aged between 25 and 29 in 2019-21 married before their 21st birthday. In the eastern States of Bihar and West Bengal, the share was over 70% (**Map 2**). In Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura, it was more than 65%. Even in Goa, the State with the least share of such women, one in five women aged between 25 and 29 in 2019-21 married before turning 21.

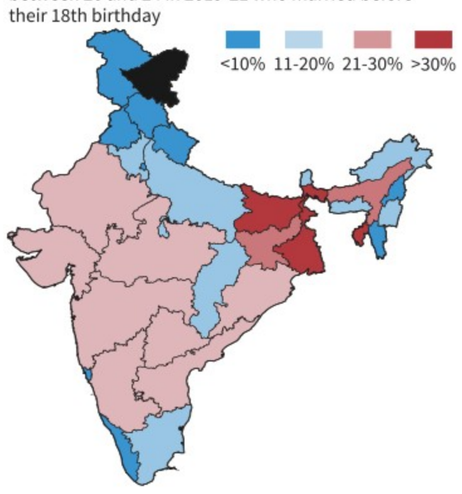
So, while laws can be changed, enforcement may remain weak as underage marriages are rarely reported. As concluded in the Data Point titled 'Education, more than wealth, determines women's marital age' (February 15), better-educated women have had more control over when they should get married for decades now. The Data Point also showed that due to awareness and better negotiation powers, younger women have pushed up their median marriage age by many years compared to their mothers and grandmothers.

This progress can be seen in **Chart 3**, which shows the share of women aged 20-24 and 45-49 in 2019-21 who married before their 18th birthday. In all the States, except Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur, the share of such women in the 20-24 age group was much lower than the share in the 45-49 age group. This is a reflection of the increasing power of negotiation aided by better education levels among younger women.

Not a question of age alone

The charts and maps are based on National Family Health Survey-5. The survey was conducted between 2019 and 2021.
In the maps, ■ corresponds to data not available

Map 1 | The share of women who were aged between 20 and 24 in 2019-21 who married before their 18th birthday



Map 2 | The share of women who were aged between 25 and 29 in 2019-21 who married before their 21th birthday

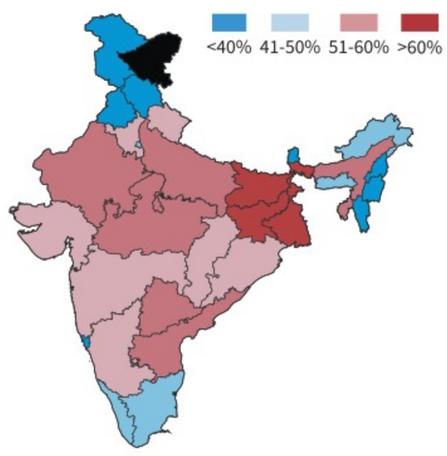
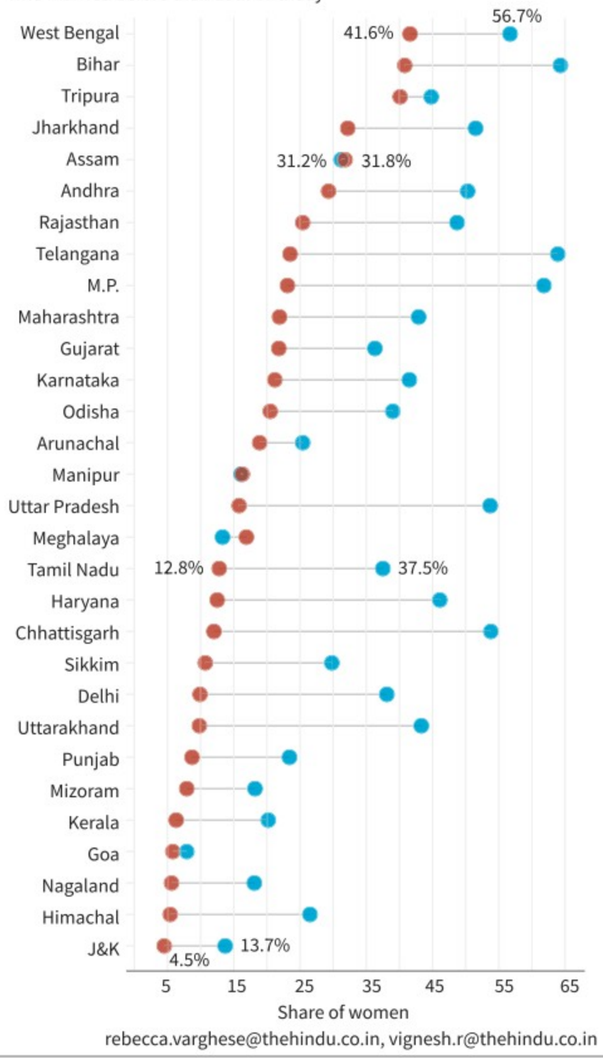


Chart 3 | The share of women aged 20-24 ● and 45-49 ● in 2019-21 who married before their 18th birthday



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 21, 1973

Kerala power for T. Nadu rice: Barter move

Trivandrum, Feb. 20: Kerala is thinking of a "barter deal" with Tamil Nadu for supplying power in exchange for its essential requirements like cement and rice. The Electricity Ministers of the two States are likely to meet here in the next few days to consider arriving at a "package agreement." This was disclosed by Mr. M.N. Govindan Nair, Kerala Electricity Minister, when his attention was drawn to the Union Irrigation and Power Minister, Dr. K.L. Rao's statement in the Rajya Sabha to-day that Kerala had agreed to supply 2.5 lakh units daily to Tamil Nadu. Mr. Nair said no such offer, as mentioned by Dr. Rao, had been made by Kerala, though the proposals were there and had to be processed and agreed to by both the States at the ministerial-level talks. Kerala would like to help Tamil Nadu, which was experiencing acute power shortage and had imposed a 75 per cent power cut, "if necessary by introducing a cut here," he added. But for inducing the people of Kerala to accept some privation, "we must also get something in return," he added. He pointed out in this connection that Tamil Nadu could, in exchange for power, help with regular supplies of cement which was badly needed for completion of the Idikki hydro-electric scheme, and the one-lakh rural houses project. In Madras the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board officials feel that any assistance from Kerala be welcome at this critical juncture.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 21, 1923

Frontier raids

Peshawar, Feb. 20: For the first time for several months a gang of transborder raiders has again appeared on the Dera Ismail Khan border. On the 11th February four of them seized a Hindu who was working in the fields near Raghma and carried him off. Constabulary and villagers promptly got out in pursuit and overtook the gang in a pass. They rescued the Hindu and wounded one of the raiders and had one man wounded themselves. It is believed that about 50 Wazirs altogether were attempting to commit offences, but they failed to bring off any successful raid. A Mahomedan of Datsamand village in Kohat District was recently carried off into independent territory on the Karram border, but the threat of immediate reprisals on the tribe concerned secured his release within a few days.

From Page One

Congress leaders face ED searches

Mr. Baghel was joined by his Cabinet and party colleagues, and AICC in-charge for Chhattisgarh, Kumari Selja. "The BJP is restless because of the success achieved by the Bharat Jodo Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi *ji*. All eyes are on the Congress's national convention being held in Chhattisgarh in which the road map for the Lok Sabha polls in 2024 and the Assembly polls in 2023 [that includes Chhattisgarh] was to be discussed," he said.

Congress State president Mohan Markam added that of the 3,010 raids conducted by the Central agencies in the past eight years, 95% were against those associated with the Opposition parties, a majority of whom were Congress leaders. "We are racing against time to complete the preparations of the plenary session and if those who are saddled with key responsibilities, for example the treasurer who clears the dues and provides the funds, were disturbed, preparations will be hit," said a leader of the State unit.

While Mr. Baghel said the raids could have taken place a month or two before or after the upcoming event, the party's national leaders in Delhi said it was third-grade politics and reeked of vendetta. Congress workers held protests outside the ED office and other locations in Raipur.

The alleged scam

The ED is looking into allegations of money laundering in an alleged scam that it has said in the past pertained to "a massive scam in which illegal levy of ₹25 per tonne was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen". An ED source said cash and gold (the value of which is yet to be tabulated) and several other documents were seized from the two MLAs. The searches that began at 6 a.m. are likely to continue till Tuesday. "In all, we raided 13 premises belonging to 8 individuals in Raipur, Bhilai and Bilaigarh. Their names were not in the initial ECIR and had come up during the investigation," the source said, adding that 50 sleuths conducted the raid at these locations.

'Cowardice of BJP'

In New Delhi, the Congress said the BJP government was indulging in "politics of vendetta."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a series of tweets, said the searches coming before the plenary showed the "cowardice of the BJP".

EPFO lists norms to opt for higher pension

While employers' organisations welcomed the circular, trade unions said it was delayed beyond the date suggested by the top court and it will cause further inconvenience for pensioners as the deadline set by the court to submit joint options will end on March 3.

Regional PF Commissioner (Pension) Aprajita Jaggi said in the circular that employees who did not exercise joint option as per paragraph 11(3) of the EPS "would be entitled to exercise joint option". The employees and pensioners who had contributed to the EPS and did not exercise joint option for higher pension on actual salary prior to September 1, 2014 can now apply for enhanced pension. The employees and pensioners should give joint consent with the employer to the EPFO for adjustment from Provident Fund to Pension Fund and for any re-deposit to the fund.

"In case of transfer of funds from exempted provident fund trust to pension fund of EPFO, an undertaking of the trustee shall be submitted. The undertaking shall be to the effect that due contribution along with interest up to the date of payment, will be deposited within the specified period," she said in the circular.

"In case of employees of un-exempted establishments, refund of requisite employer's share of contribution, the same shall be deposited with interest at the rate declared under Para 60 of the EPF Scheme, 1952, till the date of actual refund," the circular said and added that the method of deposit and that of computation of pension will follow through subsequent circular.

Member of the Central Board of Trustees representing employers K.E. Raghunathan said the circular had simplified the process with clarity for seeking pension on higher wages. "This has put at rest all the other speculative expectations. We must appreciate the complexity and financial implications," he said.

A.K. Padmanabhan, member representing workers in CBT, said the EPFO had already done injustice to the employees by delaying the circular for joint options and giving notices to a number of pensioners to recover their higher pension. "The January 25 circular should be corrected. The date for submission of the joint option is not yet there in the new circular. There is only few days before March 3, the deadline set by the Supreme Court. In 10 days, pensioners and employees are supposed to submit a number of documents. The EPFO should have started the process before December 29. The EPFO is taking all decisions unilaterally. The CBT meeting should be called immediately," he added.

S. Krishna Moorthy, an advocate fighting for pensioners' rights, said the conditions laid down by the EPFO for exercising higher pension were not among the observations of the Supreme Court. "These conditions are probably incorporated with an ulterior motive to defeat the claim of majority of the pensioners waiting for the window to open," he said.

BJP slams NPP as PM's rally denied venue in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The denial of permission for hosting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election rally at a stadium in Tura town of Meghalaya has made the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) see red.

The Prime Minister was scheduled to address the rally at the P.A. Sangma Stadium on February 24 but Meghalaya's Sports Department refused permission, saying the ground was unfit for such a programme.

"They [Sports Department] have communicated that it will not be fit to host such a big gathering as construction is going on, materials are still on the site and may pose safety concerns," West Garo Hills district's Deputy Commissioner Swapnil Tembe said.

Local BJP leaders, however, accused the National People's Party (NPP) of trying to sabotage Mr. Modi's programme out of fear that a "pro-BJP wave" could derail its prospects.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya Chief Minister and NPP supremo, Conrad K. Sangma, refuted the BJP's accusation that he had a role in the denial of permission for the rally. "All permissions for rallies are given by the Election Commission of India and the district administration is adhering to the directives issued by the ECI," he said.

Rio is the CM face of BJP-NDPP alliance in Nagaland, says Sarma

Assam CM puts an end to speculation, says there is an agreement in place between the parties; promises a Naga political solution if voted to power

Rahul Karmakar
DIMAPUR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday laid all speculation to rest by declaring that Neiphiu Rio will continue to be his Nagaland counterpart if the BJP and the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) are voted back to power.

"The strong friendship between the two parties helped us provide the people of Nagaland a stable government for five years. Carrying the friendship forward, we had an agreement that Neiphiu Rio*ji* will be the Chief Minister again if the BJP and NDPP retain power," Mr. Sarma said at an election rally in Wokha district of Nagaland. He was campaigning for BJP candidate Mmhonlumo Kikon, who is seeking re-election from the Bhandari Assembly constituency.

There had been murmurs that the BJP-NDPP combine may opt for a new Chief Minister if it retains power. A State BJP leader admitted to such speculation but said his party had no claimant for the top post. For the upcoming Assembly polls, the NDPP and BJP repeated the 40:20 seat-sharing deal they had struck ahead of the 2018 election. Nagaland has a total of 60 seats.

Strong ties: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio (left) with his Assam counterpart, Himanta Biswa Sarma, in this file photo.

A veteran politician

Mr. Rio, who switched to the Naga People's Front (NPF) from the Congress in 2002, became the Chief Minister for the first time in 2003 and carried on until he decided to step down and contest the 2014 Lok Sabha election. He won the State's lone LS seat as the NPF candidate.

Mr. Rio, now 72, tried to reclaim the Chief Minister's chair in 2016 but the NPF cold-shouldered him. Ahead of the 2018 Assembly election, he joined the NDPP and forged an electoral deal with the BJP, which was the NPF's ally until then.

'Will solve Naga issue'

Mr. Sarma said the BJP and the NDPP would strive to resolve the protracted Naga political problem if voted to power. The problem pertains to the peace process between the Centre and several Naga extremist groups since 1997.

"We want a government which will bring development and solution to the Naga political issue. We will try to solve the problem within the next five years based on the unique Naga political history and uniqueness of the Naga people," he said.

Probe at 'advanced stage' in hate speech case, say Delhi Police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police told the Supreme Court on Monday that its investigation into hate speech incidents in the national capital is at an "advanced stage".

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj, for the police, said voice sample tests report was "expected".

Advocate Shadan Farasat, for petitioner Tushar Gandhi, said in the previous hearing that the police had informed the court that their investigation was "substantially completed". He said the Delhi Police should complete the probe and file the chargesheet by the next hearing in the Supreme Court. The top court listed the case for the first week of April.

Mr. Farasat had highlighted that no chargesheets were filed though the incidents had happened on December 19, 2021. Even the FIR was registered only on May 4, 2022. There had been no arrests or questioning of the suspects, he had submitted. Mr. Gandhi had highlighted how the incident witnessed "calls of violence and Nazi-style salutes".

Cannot stop Khalistan movement: preacher

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Self-styled Sikh preacher and pro-Khalistan propagator Amritpal Singh on Monday said that Khalistan movement could not be stopped from flourishing and if Union Home Minister Amit Shah desired to stop it, let him "fulfil his desire".

Responding to a question on Mr. Shah's remark that a close watch was being maintained surrounding Khalistan activities, Mr. Singh said, "If the Government of India is actually a secular government, then tell me that has Prime Minister or Home Minister ever said that they will stop people who talk about 'Hindu Rashtra'"

Dhankhar tells panel to probe 'disorderly conduct' of 12 MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On a breach of privilege notice moved by a few members against 12 Opposition MPs for "disorderly conduct" which forced multiple adjournments, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday directed the Privileges Committee of the Upper House to investigate the complaints and submit a report.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, in a bulletin, listed out the names of Congress MPs Syed Nasir Hussain, Shaktisinh Gohil, Imran Pratapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Kumar Ketkar Jebi Mather, Ranjeet Ranjan, Phulo Devi Netam and Naranbhai J. Rathwa. AAP MPs Sanjay Singh, Sandeep Kumar Pathak and Sushil Kumar Gupta have also been named. As per the bulletin, the members, "in violation of rules and etiquette" of the Rajya Sabha by repeatedly entering the well of the council, shouting slogans, persistently and wilfully obstructing the proceedings of the council, had been compelling the Chair to repeatedly adjourn the sitting.

In another bulletin, the Secretariat stated that Mr. Sanjay Singh's conduct will also be investigated for "repeated submission of identical notices under Rule 267". Rule 267 is used by the members to raise issues of national importance suspending the business of the day. Several Opposition members citing this rule had repeatedly demanded a debate on the Adani issue, but Mr. Dhankhar rejected their demands.

Elections to Kashmir's top traders' body get go-ahead

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

For the first time since the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position in 2019, Kashmir will witness elections to 21 executive posts in the Valley's oldest traders' body, the Kashmir Chamber of Industries and Commerce (KCCI), reflecting a change in the approach of the Lieutenant-Governor's (L-G) administration towards civil society groups and elected bodies in the Valley.

Forty-two contestants are participating in the 89-year-old traders' body's elections. The elections were due in 2019 but were delayed due to security concerns and the clampdown that followed the Centre's move to end J&K's special status in August 2019.

Godhra train burning case: Gujarat objects to bail plea of convicts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The State of Gujarat on Monday objected to the bail applications of convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case, saying 59 passengers, including women and children, were locked in the coaches and burnt alive.

"We see this as a rarest of rare offence. It cannot be graver than that," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for Gujarat, submitted before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

Mr. Mehta said there were 31 convictions, of which 20 were sentenced to life imprisonment and the convictions of 11 others were later commuted from the death penalty to life sentence. The law officer said the convicts cannot be considered for premature release as TADA was invoked against them.

"This is the case where 59 people were burnt alive. The bogies was bolted from the outside and set ablaze with petrol. The people who died included women and children," Mr. Mehta said.

The Bench mentioned that one of the convicts had been granted bail. Abdul Raheman Dhantiya had been allowed bail in May last year on the ground that his wife was suffering from terminal cancer and that his daughters were mentally challenged. In November, the court extended his bail till March 31, 2023.

The court listed the case after three weeks, directing the lawyers to submit a chart with the details of the convicts.

SC dismisses Sanjiv Bhatt's plea in drug seizure case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt challenging a Gujarat High Court order which set a deadline for completion of trial in a 1996 drug seizure case.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Aravind Kumar also imposed a cost of ₹10,000 on Mr. Bhatt for filing a "frivolous" petition. The top court directed Mr. Bhatt to deposit the amount with the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority.

"The petitioner rather than approaching this Court ought to have cooperated with the trial court for expeditious disposal. The grant of extension is matter for the trial court," the Bench said.

India is 'first responder' during natural disasters: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has emerged as the "first responder" to countries hit by natural disasters in "any part of the world", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. Mr. Modi congratulated the 99-member self-contained Indian team that returned from quake-hit Turkey where it operated a fully-equipped Field Hospital in Iskenderun, Hatay and treated 4,000 patients. The country had also dispatched aircraft carrying relief material and medicines to Syria under the move officially named as "Operation Dost".

India and Italy eye defence pact during Meloni visit

Suhasini Haidar
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Italy are expected to put nearly a decade of tensions over the arrest of Italian marines and other issues firmly behind them with discussions about a bilateral defence cooperation that is likely to be announced during Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni's visit to India.

Ms. Meloni, the far-right Italian leader who is travelling to Delhi as chief guest of the Raisina Dialogue conference on March 2, will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, three months after they met on the sidelines of the G-20 conference in Bali.

"A general agreement on bilateral cooperation in the defence sector [is being discussed]," a diplomatic source confirmed to *The Hindu*, adding that if talks do not conclude during Ms. Meloni's visit in March, the agreement will be ready for signing during her next visit to India in September for the G-20 summit. Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with Italian State Secretary for Defence Matteo Perego Di Cremnago in Bengaluru on the sidelines of the Aero India show, the first such visit in several years.

Indo-Pacific strategy

Ms. Meloni will be the third Italian Prime Minister to visit India in the past decade after Paolo Gentiloni in 2017 and Giuseppe Conte in 2018, but the defence agreement, which is also tied closely to Italy's Indo-Pacific strategy, will be a first.

Giorgia Meloni

Significantly, during 2012-2015, when Italy-India ties nosedived over the arrest of two Italian marines for the killing of Kerala fishermen off the Indian coast, Ms. Meloni and her party, Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy), had taken a hard line, calling for the Indian Ambassador to be expelled over the issue. In 2015, Italy also vetoed India's application to join the exclusive club of countries in the Missile Technology Control Regime, and lobbied for India to be designated a human rights violator at the European Parliament.

Subsequently, the Modi government decided to send the marines back to Italy, and the case was resolved mutually at the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Defence cooperation

In addition, the controversy surrounding the Agusta Westland VVIP helicopter deal disrupted bilateral relations as well as defence cooperation for several years. Even so, Italy remained involved in India's defence industry in some ways.

For instance, Fincantieri of Italy is the know-how provider for technology upgrade and capability enhancement for India's first indigenous aircraft carrier project, *INS Vikrant*, which was commissioned last September.

In November 2021, days after Mr. Modi's meeting with then Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting in Rome, the Defence Ministry decided to lift the ban on Italian defence company Leonardo involved in the VVIP helicopter deal.

The Indian Navy's French-origin Scorpene-class submarines are still without 'heavy-weight torpedoes' after Leonardo was blacklisted.

India and Italy are also engaged in multilateral fora in the Indian Ocean Region and Indo-Pacific.

Upendra Kushwaha quits JD(U), forms own political outfit

The rebel leader had been at odds with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar ever since he started projecting RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as his successor

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Disappointed: Upendra Kushwaha announces his resignation from the Janata Dal(U) at a press conference in Patna on Monday. PTI

Disgruntled Janata Dal(U) leader Upendra Kushwaha on Monday resigned from the party and announced the formation of the Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal (RLJD).

Soon after the announcement of the new party, he tendered his resignation from the Bihar Legislative Council. Mr. Kushwaha will be the national president of the RLJD.

"This is a new political beginning and I make the announcement of a new political party Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal. As I have floated my new political party, I also quit from the primary membership of the JD(U) along with resignation as the member of Bihar Legislative Council," Mr. Kushwaha said.

Mr. Kushwaha accused JD(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "mortgaging the political legacy".

This is not the first time that Mr. Kushwaha has parted ways with the JD(U) over differences with Mr. Kumar. He left the party in 2007 only to return in 2009. He again quit in 2013 and returned to the JD(U) fold in 2021.

He formed a outfit, the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP), in 2013, but merged it with the JD(U) in 2021. However, Mr. Kushwaha claimed that on both occasions, it was Mr. Kumar who had requested him to return to the party. The rebel leader had been continuously attacking the Chief Minister ever since Mr. Kumar started projecting Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as his successor.

'No political legacy'

"Why cannot he find a successor in his party, why is he searching for a successor at neighbour's house. The share which I was asking earlier, I realised that Nitish*ji* is left with no political assets because he has mortgaged the political assets. Nitish Kumar has nothing in his hand, he has zero assets. He has mortgaged the political legacy. He is not taking any decision of his own but is listening to others who sit beside him," Mr. Kushwaha said on Monday.

Reacting to Mr. Kushwaha's move, JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan Singh, said it would not make any impact. "This is not the first time he has left the party. Earlier also he has done it and nothing has happened. I would like to give my best wishes to him with a request to stick to whatever he has decided. We have seen how badly he failed after forming the Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) along with the BSP and the AIMIM in the 2020 Assembly poll," Mr. Singh said.

BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, Upendra*ji* is clearly a socialist with greater ideological-moral values than Nitish-Lalan."

Uddhav moves SC, says EC is 'unfair', 'failed in its duties'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday appealed to the Supreme Court against an order of the Election Commission (EC) recognising current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's "faction" as the real Shiv Sena party.

Mr. Thackeray, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, said the EC was "unfair", "biased" and failed in its duties as a "neutral arbiter of disputes" under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968.

On February 17, the top poll body allotted the party symbol "bow and arrow" and the name "Shiv Sena" to the Shinde group. Its order was based on proceedings under Paragraph 15 of the 1968 Order, which empowered it to identify the "recognised political party" from among rival factions or splinter groups.

Inner-party democracy

But Mr. Thackeray said the EC's decision amounted to an interference with the party's 2018 Constitution and results of the intra-party polls, following which Mr. Thackeray was made leader. The EC had refused to recognise the party Constitution as "sacrosanct", even termed it an instrument of "fiefdom" and allowed Mr. Shinde to take over the leadership of the party. Thus, a constitutional authority has undermined the very principles of inner-party democracy, he argued.

"The EC order allows Mr. Shinde to take over the leadership of the party without duly contesting intra-party elections in accordance with the party constitution, and is against the principles of inner-party democracy," the petition said.

Kamala Kasturi, founder of Environment Society, Chennai, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Kamala Kasturi, wife of G. Kasturi, former Editor of *The Hindu*, passed away in the city on Monday, at the age of 89.

G. Kasturi, the longest-serving Editor of *The Hindu*, passed away on September 21, 2012.

Her friends and family members said Mrs. Kasturi was an unassuming person but a staunch environmentalist whose contributions in protecting the environment included the founding of the Environment Society, Chennai.

Kamala Kasturi, wife of the late G. Kasturi, former Editor of *The Hindu*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Founding member

Sudha Ravi, wife of N. Ravi, Chairman of Kasturi and Sons, said Mrs. Kasturi was the founding member of the society.

She launched the society, along with her friends Prema Srinivasan and Radha Burnier, who was the president of the Theosophical Society of India, in 1984, and served as its joint secretary.

Saving the Cauvery

Mrs. Kasturi was involved in several environment protection projects; saving the Cauvery from pollution caused by dyeing units and taking up the cleaning of the river were projects close to her heart.

She participated in several tree planting campaigns and was part of a public interest litigation petition against a slaughterhouse proposed to be constructed at Red Hills in Chennai.

'Spiritual person'

Chitra Mahesh, who once worked with *The Hindu* and had known Mrs. Kasturi personally, said she was more of a spiritual than a religious person.

The best thing to be learnt from her life was how she remained friends with several persons for as long as 60 to 70 years, Ms. Mahesh said.

Mrs. Kasturi leaves behind two sons, K. Balaji and K. Venugopal, and a daughter, Lakshmi Srinath. Mr. Venugopal and Ms. Srinath are Directors of Kasturi and Sons.

On the draw

Why is SEBI not acting to protect retail investors, asks Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Why is the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) not trying to protect retail investors by at least ensuring that suspect companies' positions in key indices are reviewed, the Congress questioned on Monday in the context of fluctuations in the share prices of Adani Group companies after the Hindenburg revelations.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh in a statement also criticised the February 17 announcement by the NSE to add four more Adani Group companies to the NSE indices.

"Why is the NSE adding insult to injury for the lakhs of investors who have lost money in Adani Group companies. Why is it being allowed to expose more investors to risky Adani stocks?" the party questioned.

Latest EPFO circular raises further concerns

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) Monday circular, laying down the broad contours of eligibility for those members of the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) who were in service as on September 1, 2014 for seeking higher pension, has raised concerns.

A.S.R. Namazi, general secretary of the KSRTC Retired Officers and Supervisors Association, Hubballi, says given the fact that the period of four months, as stipulated by the Supreme Court in its judgment of November 2022, is expiring on March 3, very limited time is left for willing members of the EPS to exercise the option. Again, the circular by itself would not enable them to give their option, as they have to wait for one more circular of the EPFO and the respective Regional PF Commissioner's communication on the form and manner of the request for exercising the option.

M. Somasundaram, a Chennai-based consumer activist, says the circular lacks clarity as no illustration has been given with regard to an estimated amount of pension that a member would get. "When a member exercises his or her option along with his or her employer, he or she gives the consent for transfer of a certain amount of money from his PF account to the Pension Fund. In the absence of required information, such a member would not like to exercise the option," he said, expressing hope that the authorities would clear the air as early as possible.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1608/03/2023 4872 Dated : 15.02.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement -2nd

Name of the Work : Construction of Main approach road, Internal road with RCC drain and cross drainage structures in IDCO, MSME Park at Barapalli in Dist-Ganjam, Odisha.
Estimated Cost : Rs. 594.38 lakhs (approx.).
Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-157/ 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 27.02.2023	17.00 Hours of 14.03.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4879: OIPR-14003/11/0300/2223

DELHI JAL BOARD
(Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF THE ACE (DR.) Project-III
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR-VIII
Yamuna Vihar Sewage Treatment Plant
(Adjoining Dr. Ambedkar College) Delhi-110094
Phone : 011-22813593 Email : eecdr8@gmail.com

"Stop Corona Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distancing"

Press NIT No.10(2022-23)(Re-invite)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender(Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing fee Non-Refundable (Rs)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/ time of receipt of tender
1	Providing & Laying 300 mm to 900 mm Nominal Dia Internal and Peripheral Sewer Line in Shri Ram Colony, Rajiv Nagar and Part of Sonia Vihar in Karawal Nagar Delhi.	82,18,33,593/-	92,18,500/-	1500/-	2023_ DJB_236831_1 Dated : 18.02.2023	03.03.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) R.K. JAIN
Advt. No. J.S.V. 509 (2022-23) EE(C) DR-VIII (DELHI JAL BOARD)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (DR)PROJ.-III
VARUNALAYA BUILDING, PHASE - II, KAROL BAGH,
NEW DELHI-110005
email: eecdr15.djb@gmail.com
NIT No. 05 / EE(C)DR-XV (2022-23)

Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs)	Tender fees (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Date of release in e-procurement	Last date and time of receipt through e-procurement
P/L/J Peripheral and Internal sewer lines in Un authorized Colonies of Najafgarh Assymbly Constituency, which have been shifted to command of Mitrao STP from Tajpur STP. 2023_DJB_236793_1	34,48,37,324/-	1500/- Non refundable	44,48,373/-	09 Months	13.03.3023 up to 3:10 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site http://delhi.govtprocurement.com.
Issued by P.R.O. (Water) (Satyender Dabas)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 506 (2022-23) Ex. Engineer (C) DR-XV

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF ACE(DR)PR-II
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR. XI,
ROOM NO-303, 3rd FLOOR, VARUNALYA,
PHASE-I, JHANDEWALAN,
KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005
E-mail: eecdrxi@gmail.com
"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAINING HAND HYGIENE"
SHORT PRESS NIT No. 01 (Item No. 1 & 2) (2022-23)/EE(C)DR-XI

Item No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount	Tender Fees	Earnest Money	Completion Period
1.	Providing, laying and jointing 300 mm to 560 mm dia internal/peripheral sewer lines under the command of Auchandi DSTP & under the command of Qutubgarh DSTP in Bawana AC (Tender ID: 2023_DJB_236795_1)	₹ 114,99,08,705/-	₹ 1500/- (Non-Refundable)	₹ 1,25,00,000/-	9 Months
2.	Providing, laying and jointing 300 mm to 400 mm nominal dia internal/ peripheral sewer lines under the command of Punjab khor DSTP and under the command of Jatt khor DSTP in Bawana ac (Tender ID: 2023_DJB_236795_2)	₹ 26,39,99,481/-	₹ 1500/- (Non-Refundable)	₹ 36,40,000/-	9 Months

The more detail required above can be seen on website www.delhi.govtprocurement.com

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 508(2022-23)

(ER. P.K. KAPIL)
EX. ENGINEER (C) DR-XI
Room No.: 303, 3rd Floor, Varunalya,
Phase-I, Jhandewalan,
Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer (Commercial &Tariff),
Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Inviting short term tender through DEEP portal as per MoP guidelines,for meeting the power deficit during peak hours of May 2023. DEEP portal reference No. KSEBL/Short/22-23/ET-259/20.02.2023.
Last Date - 06.02.2023, 02.00 pm. Visit www.kseb.in
PR/MC1/F274/2023

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o Superintending Engineer (TD-I), 603, Dreamax Plaza, Jaipur, Email: se.td2@rvun.com
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-15(RVU2223SLOB02071)
E-Tenders are invited for Consultancy Engineering Services for setting-up of 1x800 MW Ultra Supercritical Thermal Power Project, Unit # 3 at KaTPP, Kalisindh, Distt. Jhalawar (Rajasthan). Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/14768 RVUN/PR-3802 Superintending Engineer (TD-I)

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 13-02-2023 to 19-02-2023
Kerala State Civil Supplies Department
Tender ID: 2023_KSCSD_557590_1 * COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES * SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRONIC WEIGHING SCALE MACHINES * Closing Date: 02-Mar-2023 * PAC: Rs150000000
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:13-19/Feb/2023/PRD/(N)15

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं परियोजना प्रबन्धक,
वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेन्टर, जिला परिषद्, बून्दी
(मुख्यालय:- कृषि परिसर(आत्मा)सोजागेट, बून्दी)
(Email ID:- SEWDSC.BUNDI@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN)
क्रमांक:-ज.प./निविदा/PMKSY-2.0/2022-23/639 दिनांक:-13.02.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01A/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से PMKSY-2.0 के तहत् स्वीकृत परियोजना क्षेत्र में NRM मद के अन्तर्गत करवाये जाने वाले विभिन्न निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बून्दी जिले में स्वीकृत कार्यों हेतु राजस्थान लोक उपापन में पारदर्शिता नियम 2013 के अनुसरण में राज्य सरकार के कार्य, निर्माण विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, जन स्वा. एवं अभि. विभाग, सिंचित क्षेत्र विकास एवं केन्द्रीय सरकार के अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग में पंजीकृत सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के निर्गमित सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 27.02.2023 सायः 06:00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in", "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in", वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकता है।
SPPP-NIB NO. :- WSC2223A0373
SPPP-BID NO./UBN No:-
1. WSC2223WSOB00577
2. WSC2223WSOB00578
3. WSC2223WSOB00579
4. WSC2223WSOB00581
5. WSC2223WSOB00583
(शिव कुमार खण्डेलवाल)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं प्रदेश परियोजना प्रबन्धक
वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेन्टर जिला परिषद् बून्दी
DIPR/C/ 2591

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
No. ACE/Actt./Dungarpur/F- /2022-23/2659 Dated :- 10/02/23
CORRIGENDUM-1st - NIT No. 27/2022-23
The dates for uploading bids for following works in NIT no. 27/2022-23 is hereby extended till 17.02.2023, upto 06:00 PM due to unavoiable circumstances.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost of Work (Rs. in lacs)
1	Planning, Design and Construction of Solar based Micro Irrigation Scheme at (i) Naya Gaon Farash Anicut Village Bhatwara Tehsil & District Dungarpur) (ii) Mandwiya, Modar-1, Modar-2 & Modar-3 Cluster Tehsil Bicchiwara District Dungarpur. (iii) Hangriwala, Hajudungra, and Piplada Cluster Tehsil & District Dungarpur (iv) Baladit Gameti Fala Cluster Tehsil & District Dungarpur and its O&M for a period of 8 years on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Single Responsibility Turnkey basis.	4616.68

Updated particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & departmental website. www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd
UBN No :- WRD2223WLOB02510
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/2651 Water Resources Zone, Udaipur

Petronet LNG Limited
NOTIFICATION OF TENDER
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF GUCD BYPASS HEADER AT PLL KOCHI LNG TERMINAL
Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites proposals through Open Domestic Competitive Bidding from experienced and financially sound Contractors for Installation and Commissioning of GUCD Bypass header at Kochi Terminal of PLL.
Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlng.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.
Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
1st Floor, World Trade Centre, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi -110001, India.
Tel. No.: +91-11-23472525, Email: cnp@petronetlng.in

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-TENDER NOTICE
The TSTRANSCO invites online Bids under e-procurement for supply of the following equipment. (1) Tender Specification No.: TSPMM31- 03/2023, Description of Equipment: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 213 Nos. SDH OLTEs, NMS and Associated Equipment. (2) TSPMM31- 09/2023 : Supply of Optical (OFC) Testing Instruments.
Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Contact Nos: The Chief Engineer/P&MM, TSTransco, Phone: 040-23396000, Extn.: 3537/3323/3583/3487, www.tstransco.in.
R.O.No.50/22 Sd/- Chief Engineer/P&MM

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, Dasarahalli Division, Ravindra Nagar, Shettyhalli Main Road, BBMP Office, Bengaluru - 560 057.
No: EE/RI-Dhalli/Tend/04/2022-23 Date: 15.02.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-02)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)
The Executive Engineer, (Road Infrastructure-Dasarahalli Division) BBMP, Bengaluru invites Item Rate tenders from eligible Contractors/firms registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of the works detailed in the table below. (Tender Document KW-04)

Sl No.	Name of work	Approx. Value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1	Resurfacing of SM Road, Rajagopalanagara Main Road & ORR from Jalahalli Cross to Sonal Garment under RI-Dasarahalli Division (Call-02)	879.03	13.19

Calendar of Events : (1)Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 21.02.2023. (2) Last Date for Tender Queries is 24.02.2023 upto 2:00 pm. (only through online) (3) Pre-Bid Meeting at the Office of the Executive Engineer-Road Infrastructure-Dasarahalli Division on 24.02.2023 at 4:00 pm. (4) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 02.03.2023 upto 4:00 pm. (5) Last Date for receipt of tender is 02.03.2023 upto 4:00 pm. (6) Date of opening of Technical Bid is 03.03.2023 by 4:30 pm. (7) Date of opening of financial bid: after approval of technical bid. (8) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: www.bbmp.gov.in. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Dasarahalli Division

INBRIEF

NITI Aayog gets new CEO, Iyer to go to World Bank

The Cabinet Committee on Appointments on Monday appointed former Union Commerce Secretary and retired civil servant B.V.R. Subrahmanyam as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. He will replace Parameswaran Iyer, who has been assigned as Executive Director of the World Bank at its headquarters in Washington DC. Mr. Subrahmanyam's appointment is for two years from the date of assuming charge. Mr. Iyer's tenure will be for three years. Mr. Iyer will replace Rajesh Khullar, a 1988-batch IAS officer, at the World Bank. Mr. Khullar will go back to his parent cadre, Haryana.

TRAI seeks change in building laws to allow for digital infra

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued recommendations on Monday to authorities to treat "digital connectivity infrastructure" inside buildings on a par with utilities such as electricity and water supply. The regulator recommended that the Model Building Bylaws (MBBL) and the National Building Code of India (NBC) be amended to incorporate provisions on Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI). Building development plans should incorporate such infrastructure, such as ducts for fibre optic cables, in the initial stages of construction itself. TRAI said that buyer-builder agreements under the jurisdiction of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 should specify the requirements for DCI.

Income tax calculator to help compare savings

The Income Tax department on Monday released a "tax calculator" tool to help an assessee compare tax savings under the new income tax regime provisions announced in the Budget and the old regime. "Tax Calculator is now live! A dedicated tax calculator to check Old Tax Regime vis-à-vis New Tax Regime for Individual/ HUF/AOP/BOI/Artificial Juridical Person as per Section 115BAC can now be accessed on the IT Dept website," the I-T Department tweeted. The Budget announcement had said that taxpayers opting for the new regime would get a rebate if their income was below ₹7 lakh a year. PTI

Philippine Navy men trained on BrahMos missile systems

As part of the $374.96 million deal for BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, 21 Philippine Navy personnel were awarded their interim missile badges by Indian Navy chief Adm. R. Hari Kumar as they completed operator training of the shore-based BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles system. The training was held in Nagpur and the deliveries will begin next year, a defence source said. The training that ran from January 23 to February 11 focused on the operations and maintenance of some of the most important logistics of the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile System, the Philippines Marine Corps stated.

Centre may notify emissions trading scheme by June

Sectors will be given energy efficiency targets and companies that exceed these targets will get 'credits' or certificates that they can bank or sell to firms that failed to meet the goals

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

After the passing of the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill last December, the Centre is now in the final stages of notifying an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) that will require polluting industries to achieve certain standards of energy efficiency and permit them to 'trade' these improvements.

The notification specifying which sectors will be covered and the targets they will be set will be announced latest by June, two officials, affiliated to the Power and Environment Ministries, separately confirmed to *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a Power Ministry body, would be the nodal coordinator of the scheme. Sectors (for example, aluminium, cement, fertilizer) would be given energy efficiency targets and the companies that were able to exceed these targets would get 'credits' or certificates that they could bank or sell to companies that failed to meet the targets. Emissions trading schemes, as they are called, are deployed in the European Union and Korea.

For a cleaner future: Generation of solar thermal power is among the activities that will be eligible for trading carbon credits. AFP

Since 2015, the BEE has been running the 'Perform, Achieve, Trade' scheme under which 1,078 industries spanning 13 sectors have been getting energy security certificates if they exceeded certain targets.

While similar in principle, the credits generated under the forthcoming mechanism will force companies to invest substantially more in deploying alternative, cleaner sources of energy to meet efficiency norms, as they will likely have to meet a higher bar for emission reductions.

Policy difference

One official said that one significant difference in the Indian emissions trading scheme from the ones in Europe or other countries is that companies will not be required to cut carbon emissions in absolute terms. "The EU is required to cut emissions under the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. India doesn't have an obligation. However, we have committed to reducing the emissions intensity (emissions per unit of GDP) of our GDP by 45% (of 2005 levels) by 2030. So it's possible for companies (under the Indian emissions trading scheme) when they increase production to emit more carbon and still be more efficient," the official said.

India has committed to installing facilities to generate nearly 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030 and this will cost at least ₹2.4 trillion according to an estimate from the Central Electricity Authority. "India should have its own emissions trading scheme structure and while we can certainly learn from models in the West, we should ensure that what we do accommodates for our specific needs," Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, said at a discussion on Monday on carbon markets.

Play-based learning material for 3-8 age group launched

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Classroom learning sans textbooks, and one that is instead based on toys, puppets and story cards is at the core of the implementation of the curriculum framework prepared by the Union government for children in the age group of 3-8 to meet a key focus area of the National Education Policy to improve foundational skills of students.

Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday released learning and teaching material – called the *jaadui pitara* or magical box – for the foundational stage of schooling. The material also leverages technology and provides QR codes to enable teachers to access teaching resources such as poems, storybooks and flash cards.

The teaching material released will pave the way for implementation of the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Skills, 2022 released in October last year for students in *balvatika* (pre-primary) and Classes 1 and 2.

Children between three and six years learn best through doing activities

The National Education Policy seeks to improve foundational skills. FILE PHOTO

"such as talking, listening, using toys, working with material, painting, drawing, singing, dancing, running, and jumping", says a concept note prepared by the Education Ministry.

Teacher's role

Therefore, the teaching material now prepared by the NCERT requires teacher engagement to not only be "textbook-free" but also involve "conversations, storytelling, toy-based learning, songs and rhymes, music and movement, arts and craft, indoor and outdoor games, spending time with nature, and field trips".

It lays emphasis on oral language development and oral math games.

Only Parliament can amend the law to provide a uniform marriage age, says top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Petitioner had asked the court to enhance the minimum age of marriage from 18 to 21 for women too

Noting that there are some matters which should be left to the "ultimate wisdom of the Parliament", the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking to enhance the minimum age of marriage of women from 18 to 21, on a par with that of men.

"We should not perceive that we are the exclusive custodians of the Constitution. The Parliament is equally the custodian of the Constitution. Parliament can amend the law to provide uniform marriage age. However desirable it is, the power to do so lies with the Parliament. There are some things which only the Parliament can amend and legislate... We cannot enact the law here," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud told petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay.

Mr. Upadhyay had asked the court to strike down 18 as the minimum age of marriage in statutory laws governing Christians, Parsis and Hindus and in the Special Marriage Act and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

But the court reasoned that if it struck down 18, then it could not follow it up by legislating or amending the laws to make 21 the minimum age of marriage.

"But 18 years is arbitrary," Mr. Upadhyay said.

"So, then we strike it down. But can we legislate after that? That is for the Parliament to do," Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, responded.

Mr. Upadhyay pointed out that Sharia law allowed age of puberty as the age of marriage, and hence there should be a uniform age of marriage across faiths.

"The petitioner seeks a legislative amendment to increase the minimum age of marriage to 21 years... It is trite law that this court in its exercise of Article 32 (writ jurisdiction) of the Constitution cannot issue a mandamus to the Parliament to legislate nor can it legislate in a matter entrusted to the Parliament or the State Legislatures to exercise power," the court said in the order.

'Judiciary can't take a call on anomalies in grounds for divorce'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would examine how far it could judicially intervene in making divorce proceedings gender and religion neutral, while adding a rider that it *prima facie* felt the government and legislature had to take the call ultimately.

"We will see how far the court can go," Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed orally. The Bench, however, added that it was for the "government to decide and not for the court to go into" issues like "removing anomalies in the grounds of divorce and make them uniform for all citizens without prejudice on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth".

The court was hearing a petition, among a batch, filed by petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, to frame guidelines for "uniform grounds of divorce for all citizens across the different faiths".

The government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it had "no objections in principle to make the law gender neutral".

However, it was for the court to consider how far it could "judicially intervene" in the issue.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the parties in the case, opposed the "omnibus suggestions" made in Mr. Upadhyay's petition.

The court listed the case after four weeks. It has sought details of the entire batch of separate petitions.

13 MPs to get the Sansad Ratna award

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eight Lok Sabha members and five Rajya Sabha members have been nominated for the Sansad Ratna Awards, based on performance in questions, private members' Bills and participation in debates.

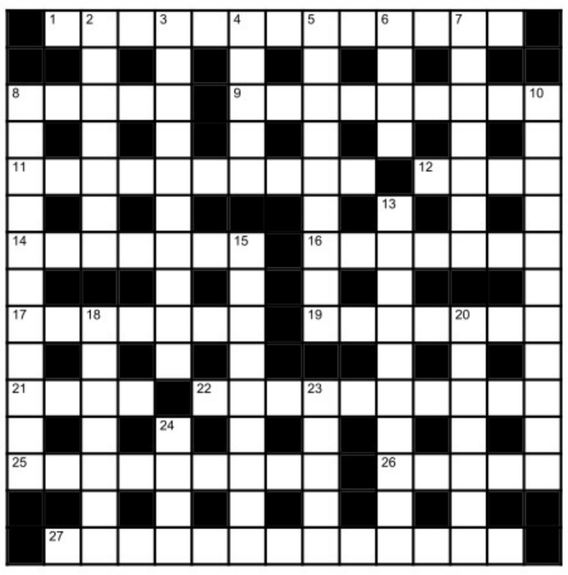
From the Rajya Sabha, CPI(M) MP John Brittas, RJD MP Manoj K. Jha and NCP MP Fauzia Tahseen have won the award in the sitting members category. Among the outgoing MPs, Vishambar Prasad Nishad of the SP and Chhayya Verma of the Congress have been selected. From the Lok Sabha, the BJP's Bidyut Baran Mahato, Sukanta Majumdar, Heena Vijayakumar Gavit, Gopal Chinayya Shetty and Sudhir Gupta; Kuldeep Rai Sharma and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Congress) and Amol Ramsinh Kolhe (NCP) have won.

TH CROSSWORD + 13794

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 What model might be doing in an advantageous position? (7,6)
8 Confine new leader of insurgents in old Finnish capital (5)
9 Hot author taking off clothes in affair (9)
11 General reviewed an edition about onset of war (10)
12 Pride parade letters - large, grand and extremely bright (1,1,1,1)
14 Sweet is whipped cream containing a hint of lime (7)
16 Nice clips extensively covering astronomical event (7)
17 African union also overwhelmed by recurrent trouble (7)
19 Cooking salami, room finally filled with vapour (7)
21 Consider losing kilo to get lean (4)
22 Producer from India touring Paris and Rome (10)
25 Lecturer cheats around, chasing extremely naive chicks (9)
26 Finish with excising bit of tumour in sinew (3,2)
27 Fiends and deceivers disregarding independent activists (13)

Down

2 Tiring exercises over bicycle, finally getting lighter (7)
3 Perfect dress a lot admire (6-4)
4 Currently smuggling bit of oxycodone and heroin? Not at all! (5)
5 Ripped male models firing lady's fantasy (4,5)
6 Inquire about touring Vatican days before holiday (4)
7 Settling with pint, guy relaxed (5,2)
8 Device used in emergency to track one criminal abducting victim (5,6)
10 Back of ankle got swollen up? Hope you recover quickly! (3,4,4)
13 Rests after century, breaking the English record without any problems (5,5)
15 Explosive devices with cap of metal found in fields (9)
18 In disagreement with associate backing lie to prosecute (2,5)
20 Another endless bombing raid breaks watchtower (7)
23 One getting out of bed in underwear is erotic (5)
24 Chapter on painting about Greek muse of history (4)

SUDOKU

			5	3				4
			1	4	9	2		
4					2			9
	4			2	8	7	9	
2		1				8		6
	8	9	7	1			4	
5			8					3
		3	4	7	5			
7				9	3			

No.SS5716 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	5	3	7	6	4	9
4	5	7	1	6	9	2	3	8
6	3	9	8	2	4	5	7	1
9	2	1	7	4	3	8	6	5
8	4	5	2	1	6	3	9	7
3	7	6	9	5	8	4	1	2
7	6	2	4	9	5	1	8	3
1	8	4	3	7	2	9	5	6
5	9	3	6	8	1	7	2	4

FAITH

The mercy of Rama and Sita

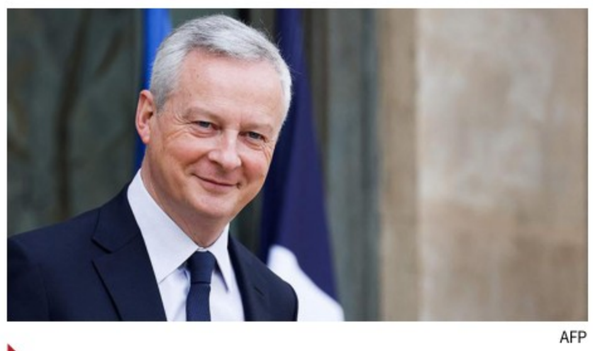
After Ravana was killed and the battle was over, no kinsmen were available to perform the last rites to Ravana except Vibhishana. He was agitated and he refused to perform because Ravana was enemy to his much-admired and revered Rama. But Rama told Vibhishana why do you keep enmity after he ceased to exist. With him his enmity is gone. Rama further told that he is as well mine as is yours. If you consider me as your own then my Ravana is yours.

Rama expressed exorbitantly magnanimous words with abundant mentality and all broadmindedness. Vibhishana's heart was melted and he performed. Then Vibhishana was installed by Lakshmana in the kingdom. Rama asked Lakshmana to install because he had the greatest of auspiciousness – that is the wealth of service. That is why anything that Lakshmana touched would turn as gold.

Sri Sita was overwhelmed with joy when she saw Hanuman carrying the news of victory. Sita told Hanuman that you can be given all the riches in the world. But Hanuman politely said the affection in your words to me who is your servant is more than anything else in this world. Hanuman requested Sri Sita that if she had permitted he would pounce and kill all rakshasas who disturbed Her. But Sita told that they are only servants of Ravana and carried the command like how you are a servant of Rama. If one is to be handed out punishment for obeying his master, then everybody would be punished. Now Ravana is no more and so they should not be punished. Such is the ocean of sympathy that Sri Sita and Sri Rama expressed, said Smt. Prabha Senesh in a discourse.

PARIS

U.S. and India have come in the way of taxing tech giants: France

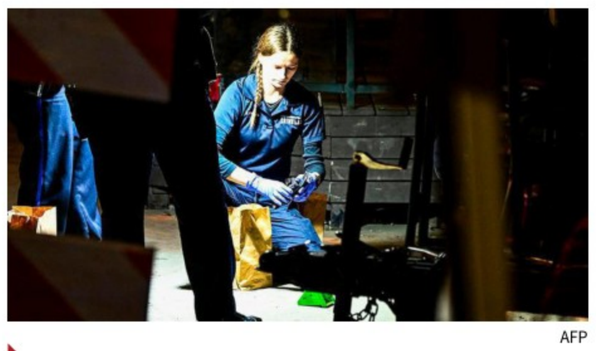


AFP

International talks aimed at taxing global tech giants that only declare profits in a few jurisdictions have hit a standstill due to opposition from countries including the U.S. and India, France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said. The talks come ahead of a meeting of the G-20 group of large economies in India this week. AFP

NEW ORLEANS

5 persons, including a girl, shot at Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans



AFP

Five persons were shot, including a young girl, during a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, the police said, and a suspect was in custody. The other victims included a woman and three men, who were all taken to a hospital after Sunday night's shooting during the Krewe of Bacchus parade. AP

ABU DHABI

Russia sells weapons at Abu Dhabi arms exhibition amid Ukraine war

AFP

Russia offered weapons for sale on Monday at a biennial arms fair in the UAE, ranging from Kalashnikov assault rifles to missile systems — despite facing sanctions from the West over its war on Ukraine. The event, underscores how the Gulf Arab federation has sought to embrace Moscow while balancing its ties to the West. AP

ANTAKYA

Turkey and Syria rocked again by 6.3-magnitude earthquake

REUTERS

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the Turkey-Syria border region late on Monday, setting off panic and damaging buildings in Turkey's Antakya city two weeks after the country's worst earthquake in modern history left tens of thousands dead. The tremor struck at a depth of 2 km. REUTERS

'Kyiv stands,' declares Biden as he makes a surprise visit to Ukraine

Washington says Moscow was notified of the U.S. President's visit to Kyiv shortly before his departure 'for deconfliction purposes' in an effort to avoid any miscalculation that could bring the two nuclear-armed nations into direct conflict

Associated Press
KYIV

United front: Joe Biden walks with Volodymyr Zelensky at the St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral in Kyiv on Monday. AFP

U.S. President Joe Biden paid an unannounced visit to Ukraine on Monday to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky in a defiant display of Western solidarity with a country still fighting what he called "a brutal and unjust war" days before the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion. The White House would not go into specifics, but national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that it notified Moscow of Mr. Biden's visit to Kyiv shortly before his departure from Washington "for deconfliction purposes" in an effort to avoid any miscalculation that could bring the two nuclear-armed nations into direct conflict.

"One year later, Kyiv stands," Mr. Biden declared after meeting Mr. Zelensky. "And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands. The Americans stand with you, and the world stands with you."

Mr. Biden spent more than five hours in the Ukrainian capital, consulting with Mr. Zelensky on the next steps, honouring the country's fallen soldiers and seeing U.S. embassy staff in the besieged country.

Timing crucial

The visit comes at a crucial moment: Mr. Biden is trying to keep allies unified in their support for Ukraine as the war is expected to intensify with spring offensives. Mr. Zelensky is pressing allies to speed up the delivery of promised weapon systems and calling on the West to provide fighter jets – something that Mr. Biden has declined to do.

The U.S. President got a taste of the terror that Ukrainians have lived with for close to a year when air raids sirens howled just as he and Mr. Zelensky wrapped up a visit to the gold-domed St. Michael's Cathedral.

In Kyiv, Mr. Biden announced an additional half-billion dollars in U.S. assistance for shells for howitzers, anti-tank missiles, air surveillance radars and other aid but no new advanced weaponry.

Mr. Zelensky said he and Mr. Biden spoke about "long-range weapons and the weapons that may still be supplied to Ukraine even though it wasn't supplied before." But he did not detail any new commitments.

Israelis persist with their protests as Netanyahu advances judicial changes

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

'Just' cause: Israelis demonstrate against the new judicial plan outside the Knesset in Jerusalem on Monday. REUTERS

Israel's government on Monday was pressing ahead with a contentious plan to overhaul the country's legal system, despite mass protests.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered outside Israel's Parliament, or Knesset, for a second straight week to rally against the plan as lawmakers prepared to hold an initial vote.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies say the plan is meant to fix a system that has given the courts and government legal advisers too much say in how legislation is crafted and decisions are made. Critics say it will concentrate power in the hands of the Prime Minister. They also say that Mr. Netanyahu, who is on trial for a series of corruption charges, has a conflict of interest.

"We are fighting for our children's future, for our country's future," Opposition leader Yair Lapid said.

Monday's vote on part of the legislation is just the first of three readings required for parliamentary approval. While that process is expected to take months, the vote is a sign of the coalition's determination to barrel ahead.

Ranil govt. faces mounting pressure for 'attempt to postpone' local polls

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Ranil Wickremesinghe

Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe is facing mounting pressure from the political Opposition and civil society over his government's apparent attempts to postpone local government polls, scheduled in early March, citing the lack of funds.

Earlier this year, the island nation's Election Commission announced that the local body elections will be held on March 9, 2023, giving citizens an opportunity to exercise their franchise for the first time since mass protests booted out the former Rajapaksa regime during last year's unprecedented economic crisis.

However, Mr. Wickremesinghe – elected to the country's top office in July 2022, through a parliamentary vote with legislators from the Rajapaksas' party backing him – recently indicated in a public address that the country would be able to go to polls next year, following its economic recovery.

Senior officials from the Finance Ministry and Treasury maintain that the country lacks the finances to hold polls that are estimated to cost LKR 10 billion. While Sri Lanka's Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a case on the issue later this week, the uncertainty ahead of the possible postponement of polls has sparked sharp criticism from Mr. Wickremesinghe's political rivals and members of civil society.

On Monday, a magistrate court in Colombo issued an order preventing the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force) MPs from holding a protest demanding the conduct of the scheduled polls. The leftist JVP-led National People's Power, also in Opposition, has threatened legal action and protests, should elections be put off.

'Attack on democracy'

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka [BASL], a professional body of lawyers, noted that several decisions taken by the government in recent weeks, "purportedly aimed at managing public funds", are effectively aimed at preventing the Election Commission from holding polls. Following a recent circular from the Ministry of Finance, which is also helmed by President Wickremesinghe, limiting disbursement of funds to "essential services", the Treasury Secretary informed the Election Commission of the difficulty in mobilising necessary funds to hold elections. The Government Printer, too, informed the Commission that it was unable to print ballot papers without the required funds.

A recent poll on the 'Mood of the nation' conducted by Colombo-based Verité Research showed that the Wickremesinghe government continued to have a poor 10% approval rating among the public.

Prominent Sri Lankan scholars and activists said the "mismanagement of the political front by undermining the democratic process can only deepen political instability" and in turn, "adversely impact" the country's economic recovery.

"Holding the local government elections and allowing the citizen's protests will even function as a crucial pressure valve, enabling the people of Sri Lanka to peacefully release their anger and outrage caused by the mounting economic hardships," the academicians and rights defenders observed in a recent joint statement.

Gunfight after Taliban shuts Pakistan border

Agence France-Presse
TORKHAM

Gunfire erupted between Afghanistan and Pakistan border forces on Monday after Taliban authorities in Kabul shut the country's busiest crossing with its eastern neighbour, officials said.

Relations between the two countries have been testy since the Taliban took Kabul in August 2021, with Islamabad accusing its neighbour of harbouring armed groups that have carried out strikes on its soil.

Officials on both sides, who asked not to be named, said Afghan authorities closed the border late on Sunday after Pakistani officials imposed new rules preventing entry to attendants of medical patients without certain documentation.

Bangladesh shuts main Opposition newspaper

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

The only newspaper of Bangladesh's main Opposition party halted printing on Monday after a government suspension order was upheld.

Activists and foreign governments including the U.S. have long expressed worries about efforts by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to silence criticism.

The *Dainik Dinkal*, a broadsheet Bengali-language newspaper, has been a vital voice of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for more than three decades. It employs hundreds of journalists and press workers.

It covers news stories that the mainstream newspapers, most of which are controlled by pro-government businessmen, rarely do.

INBRIEF

Sugar output rises 2.8% during current season: ISMA

Sugar output in the current sugar season, which started in October, has risen 2.8% till date from the year-earlier period, after the diversion of almost 25.8 lakh tonnes for making ethanol, as per the Indian Sugar Mills' Association. Sugar diverted for ethanol production is almost 38% more during the current season. The actual sugar production (after diversion) between October 1, 2022, and February 15, 2023, stands at 228.4 lakh tonnes (222.2 lakh tonnes last season).

Tata Motors to supply 25,000 electric taxis to Uber

Tata Motors Ltd. said it has signed an MoU with ridesharing app Uber, to provide 25,000 XPRES-T budget electric sedan cars. These will be deployed in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. Deliveries will begin this month. "This partnership will further cement our market position in the fleet segment," said Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility.

Godrej Aerospace to make 8 modules of DRDO engine

Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, said its Godrej Aerospace business had won an order for manufacturing eight modules of DRDO's engine for aerial applications. "With the growing interest from global majors to manufacture in India, Godrej Aerospace is poised to meet the growing demand for various types of engines," the company said. This experience would pave the way for future projects to develop modules for civil aviation engines as well, the Godrej Group firm added.

Govt. warns HZL on $2.98 bn buyout of Vedanta's overseas zinc assets

Mines Ministry opposes 'related party transaction', says will explore all available legal avenues and urges Hindustan Zinc to explore 'cashless' acquisition; former state-owned firm says board proposal still needs shareholders' approval as per norms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has reiterated its opposition to Hindustan Zinc Ltd.'s move to buy its parent Vedanta's overseas zinc assets for almost $3 billion, and warned the erstwhile state-owned company it will explore all legal avenues against the proposed transaction.

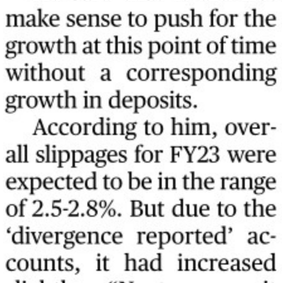
In a missive to the HZL company secretary on February 17, the Ministry of Mines said the government's dissent was already recorded by its three representatives at its January 19 board meeting, following which the management announced the board's nod for the buyout proposal. The government has a residual stake of 29.5% in HZL and has plans to divest this stake over time.

"The proposed resolutions which envisage the acquisition of THL Zinc (a Vedanta company) by HZL (also a Vedanta company) thus being a related party transaction, we, the Government of India would like to reiterate our dissent," wrote Sanjeev Verma, a director in the ministry. "We would urge the company to explore other cashless methods of acquisition of these assets.

"We would like to bring to your attention that the Government of India will oppose any proposed resolutions in furtherance of such agenda matter and will explore all legal avenues available... the company is requested to not take any further action," Mr. Verma cautioned.

In response, HZL's company secretary pointed out on Monday that the proposed transaction needed shareholders' approval as per SEBI and Companies Act norms. "The matter shall be placed before the Board... for its consideration," the official added.

Battle lines
Centre reiterates its opposition to the erstwhile PSU's proposal to acquire its private parent group's foreign zinc assets



- Mines Ministry's Feb. 17 letter to HZL notes that the government's dissent was recorded by its three representatives at the Jan. 19 board meeting
- Govt. has a residual 29.5% stake and has plans to divest it over time
- 'The company is requested to not take any further action', cautions Ministry

'FY23 growth target hit by capex cycle delay'

N. Anand
CHENNAI

N. Kamakodi

City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) is likely to miss its credit growth target of 15-18% by a small margin for the current fiscal due to a delay in start of investment cycle, said MD & CEO N. Kamakodi.

"The capacity utilisation of the manufacturing sector, according to RBI's policy, is about 75% and the investment cycle will start once it crosses the 80%-mark," he said in an interview. Mr. Kamakodi had earlier said that CUB would achieve 15-18% credit growth for FY23 assuming that the investment cycle would start from Q3.

He said that it did not make sense to push for the growth at this point of time without a corresponding growth in deposits.

According to him, overall slippages for FY23 were expected to be in the range of 2.5-2.8%. But due to the 'divergence reported' accounts, it had increased slightly. "Next year, it should be below 2.5%."

'Cereal prices likely to stay elevated going into next fiscal'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prices of cereals are unlikely to rise further as witnessed in the recent past but may remain elevated well into the next fiscal due to vagaries of climate change, strong global and domestic demand, rating agency Crisil said.

Anticipation of higher production of wheat in current rabi season is expected to improve the stock condition, which may put downward pressure on prices, though heatwaves remain a key monitorable, Crisil said.

Will continue efforts to curb inflation: FM

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The government and the RBI are taking steps to control inflation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Among other moves, the government has increased the import of edible oil as required to rein in inflation and provided free grains to the poor since the COVID-19 pandemic, and would "continuously monitor prices," Ms. Sitharaman said at a post-budget interaction in Jaipur.

Retail inflation rate rose above the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance band for the first time in three months to 6.52% in January, as prices rose for food products such as cereals and wheat. RBI targets to keep inflation between 2%-6%. The RBI will take necessary steps to manage inflation within "expected limits," she said.

Economists have said soaring prices of cereals were a concern even though the January inflation data may have overstated the extent of the increase. Unlike some countries that calculate CPI-based inflation using a weighted average of a segment of the population that pays market price and those who don't, India does not do that, said Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,692	-0.51
US Dollar	82.74	0.10
Gold	56,307	0.63
Brent oil	83.62	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1621.45	-101.25
Adani Ports	579.70	1.05
Apollo Hosp	4610.60	-4.10
Asian Paints	2825.55	-8.05
Axis Bank	846.75	-8.15
Bajaj Auto	3903.80	9.50
Bajaj Finserv	1404.60	-9.45
Bajaj Finance	6367.40	-49.30
Bharti Airtel	779.15	2.35
BPCL	326.15	-5.55
Britannia Ind	4453.80	-79.45
Cipla	964.00	-61.75
Coal India	218.30	0.80
Divis Lab	2900.60	70.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4474.80	-35.55
Eicher Motors	3290.50	5.50
Grasim Ind	1632.00	-10.95
HCL Tech	1115.70	6.15
HDFC	2655.90	-37.70
HDFC Bank	1640.35	-15.55
HDFC Life	507.95	3.70
Hero MotoCorp	2527.45	-8.10
Hindalco	434.25	4.75
Hind Unilever	2511.45	-4.05
ICICI Bank	852.10	-10.55
IndusInd Bank	1109.30	-5.40
Infosys	1592.45	8.65
ITC	384.05	0.65
JSW Steel	723.35	-5.05
Kotak Bank	1737.30	-21.95
L&T	2225.50	-0.85
M&M	1346.25	4.75
Maruti Suzuki	8693.65	-114.10
NestleIndia	18823.05	-198.25
NTPC	167.90	-0.15
ONGC	154.85	-1.75
PowerGrid Corp	215.80	2.00
Reliance Ind	2414.40	-25.80
SBI Life	1158.40	8.70
State Bank	525.15	-5.85
Sun Pharma	984.40	-0.10
TataConsumerProduct	721.80	-4.45
Tata Motors	443.00	3.10
Tata Steel	112.35	0.10
TCS	3487.30	-13.85
Tech Mahindra	1144.20	15.00
Titan	2474.15	-26.15
UltraTech Cement	7426.85	129.00
UPL	757.95	-12.20
Wipro	407.05	0.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.52	82.84
Euro	88.22	88.56
British Pound	99.32	99.71
Japanese Yen (100)	61.58	61.82
Chinese Yuan	12.03	12.08
Swiss Franc	89.46	89.81
Singapore Dollar	61.79	62.05
Canadian Dollar	61.33	61.57
Malaysian Ringitt	18.64	18.71
Australian Dollar	57.03	57.25

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Top seed Tseng enters the round-of-16 with an easy win over Ferreira Silva

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Top seed Chun-hsin Tseng entered the round-of-16 of the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 100 with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Frederico Ferreira Silva at the KSLTA courts here on Monday.

Tseng, winner of the first of two back-to-back Challengers here last year, broke in the third game of the first set before holding on to take it 6-4.

The World No. 131 from Taipei was the aggressor, often hitting the ball flat and with near-zero net clearance.

Ferreira Silva's approach to load the ball with top-spin and just keep it in play didn't pay dividends.

Focused: Chun-hsin Tseng was the aggressor in the first round match against Ferreira Silva. K. MURALI KUMAR

But in the second set, this strategy messed with Tseng's rhythm, but Ferreira Silva's own serve proved dodgy. Each of the first five games saw breaks of serve before Tseng held to 4-2 after erasing two break-points.

From there on, Tseng didn't look back, finishing the contest with a fine ace down the T.

Prajnesh in main draw

Earlier, in qualifying, Prajnesh Gunneswaran made the grade, joining fellow Indians Sumit Nagal and S.D. Prajwal Dev in the main draw. Mukund Sasikumar, however, fell in the final round.

The results (main draw, first round): Chun-hsin Tseng (Tpe) bt Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) 6-4, 6-4; Luca Nardi (Ita) bt Miljan Zekic (Srb) 6-4, 6-4; Marc Polmans (Aus) bt Francesco Maestrelli (Ita) 6-1, 6-2.

Qualifying (final round): Jason Jung (Tpe) bt Mukund Sasikumar 7-5, 6-4; Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Carlos Sanchez Jover 6-4, 6-3.

Benjamin Lock — hoping to translate Davis Cup success on the Tour

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Benjamin Lock's tennis life mirrors that of many Indians. For the 29-year-old from Zimbabwe, there is a fairly rich tennis history to get inspired by – Cara Black, Wayne Black, Byron Black and Kevin Ullyett have all won doubles Grand Slam titles, with Cara even occupying the No. 1 spot in women's doubles. The predicaments align too – limited federation support and no clear pathway to the top.

But the World No. 195, in Bengaluru for the Challenger 100, is determined to come good, unburdened by the weight of history, and with the support of a tennis loving family – his parents played for Zimbabwe and uncle, Roy Stilwell, played at Wimbledon in 1958.

Benjamin Lock. N. SUDARSHAN

"As a junior I had a lot of success, beating a number of top-10 players," says Lock. "From then I knew that I had good talent. [But] when I was 18, my family couldn't afford me turning professional. Zimbabwe has no tennis infrastructure and I had no option but to go to the United States [Florida State University]."

"There I finished top-10 in singles and was beating the best. I also played [Daniil] Medvedev (mid-2016) while still in college, at a Challenger. He was top-100 then. It was a close match and a few months later he was top-20."

But college tennis didn't help Lock on the pro tour. Starting 2019, rule changes meant International Tennis Federation (ITF) events, the lowest tier in the game, stopped offering ATP points. Zimbabwe had only ITF tournaments.

"There were no Challengers, so I couldn't get ATP points. I went backwards. But I overcame that and even won a tournament in Australia. I also beat Lorenzo Musetti [World No. 18 now]. But then COVID-19 hit and it was a different tour."

One thing that kept him going was the Davis Cup. Earlier this month he notched up his 29th win in the premier competition that placed him second in the all-time win list for Zimbabwe, behind Byron (39).

"Davis Cup is very special for me. I grew up watching some of the biggest stars in Harare. John McEnroe as captain, Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt, Goran Ivanisevic as captains.... I was so inspired to play."

Lock now hopes to translate the Cup success on the Tour. "I genuinely feel my tennis age is 23-24, keeping in mind the college years, rule changes and pandemic. Now, on my own merit, I play Challenger qualifying, and at the weaker ones the main draw. I am committed to getting better."

Meghalaya enters the semifinals for the first time in the Santosh Trophy

Sports Bureau

Meghalaya made history by entering the semifinal of the Santosh Trophy National Football Championship for the first time in Bhubaneswar on Monday. And it made it in fine fashion.

Down by a goal shortly after the half-hour mark in its last Group 'B' match, Meghalaya bounced back and defeated West Bengal 2-1 with its goals coming in a four-minute spell late in the first half through Allen Camper Lyngdoh and Nikelson Bina. With that, Meghalaya finished behind group topper Services and made the last-four stage.

Much to celebrate! Meghalaya bounced back in fine fashion in the second half to beat West Bengal. AIFF

"There is a good mix of boys who have experience playing not just Santosh Trophy but also for clubs outside the state," said Meghalaya's head coach Khlain Syiemlieh. "They have a lot of hunger and desire and I'm very happy for them. They deserve it."

The league phase ended on Monday and the action will now shift to Riyadh for the semifinals in the first week of March. Meghalaya will face Group 'A' topper Punjab while Services will meet Group 'A' runner-up Karnataka.

The results (Group B):
Meghalaya 2 (Allen Camper Lyngdoh 44, Nikelson Bina 45+3) bt West Bengal 1 (Sougata Hansda 36).

Services 4 (Oinam Gautam Singh 32 & 49, Adersh Mattumal 34 & 65) bt Railways 0.

Delhi 2 (Ajay Singh 18 & 45+1) bt Manipur 0.

Final placings (Group B): 1. Services (13 pts), 2. Meghalaya (10), 3. Railways (7), Manipur (6), Delhi (5), West Bengal (1).

High Command wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Col. S.B. Nair's High Command, ridden by S. Saqlain, scored a hat-trick by winning the Deccan Bookmakers Association Alcock Arabian Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Monday's (Feb. 20) races. The winner is trained by L.V.R. Deshmukh.

Trainer R.H. Sequeira, who saddled three winners on the day, completed 400 winners of his training career through Pacific Command.

1. CHARON PLATE: LIVERMORE (Afroz Khan) 1, Zadelle (S. Saqlain) 2, Colt Pistol (Imran Chisty) 3 and Indian Sniper (Kiran Naidu) 4. Nk, Nose and 2. 1m, 7.96s. ₹17 (w), 12, 16 and 10 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 34, SHW: 12 and 37, FP: 71, Q: 51, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Livermore. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

2. PRINCE PRADEEP PLATE: FIRST CLASS (D.S. Deora) 1, Exclusive Luck (Md. Ismail) 2, Red River (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Aiza (Mukesh Kumar) 4. Hd, 2-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 15.67s. ₹19 (w), 11, 18 and 20 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 53, SHW: 12 and 31, FP: 78, Q: 45, Tanala: 253. Favourite: First Class. Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

3. ONNU ONNU ONNU PLATE (DIV. II): SUNDANCE KID (Abhay Singh) 1, Sucker Punch (Afroz Khan) 2, Master Touch (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Muaser (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 3-1/4 and Hd. 1m, 42.17s. ₹422 (w), 78, 28 and 14 (p). SHP: 97, THP: 73, SHW: 122 and 50, FP: 4,813, Q: 1,798, Tanala: 44,963. Favourite: Master Touch. Owners: Mr. Syed Ainuddin Arif & Mr. Rafaat Hussain. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. RAJA R.J.K. RANGA RAO, ZAMINDAR OF CHIKKAVARAM MEMORIAL CUP: GENERAL ATLANTIC (Gaurav Singh) 1, N R I Super Power (Imran Chisty) 2, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 3 and Kesariya Balam (S. Saqlain) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 42.61s. ₹50 (w), 18 and 13 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 36, SHW: 23 and 12, FP: 81, Q: 32, Tanala: 259. Favourite: N R I Superpower. Owner: Mr. Praveen Kumar Kotakam. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

5. ONNU ONNU ONNU PLATE (DIV. I): PACIFIC COMMAND (Abhay Singh) 1, Lady Danger (B. Nikhil) 2, Akash (S. Saqlain) 3 and Quality Warrior (Aneel) 4. 1, Nose and Nk. 1m, 42.12s. ₹57 (w), 20, 25 and 13 (p). SHP: 81, THP: 48, SHW: 47 and 47, FP: 782, Q: 480, Tanala: 3,824. Favourite: Arba Wahed Arba. Owner: Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sohna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP: ALABAMA (Suraj Narredu) 1, Miss Marvellous (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Princess Daka (Abhay Singh) 3 and N R I Sun (Imran Chisty) 4. 2, Nk and 3/4. 2m, 10.12s. ₹28 (w), 13, 51 and 19 (p). SHP: 210, THP: 54, SHW: 16 and 100, FP: 685, Q: 322, Tanala: 3,848. Favourite: Alabama. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

7. DECCAN BOOKMAKERS ASSOCIATION ALCOCK ARABIAN MILLION (GR. 3): HIGH COMMAND (S. Saqlain) 1, Verrocchio (Santosh Raj) 2, Brilliant Star (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Windsor (Afroz Khan) 4. 4, 1-1/2 and 7-1/4. 1m, 26.96s. ₹14 (w), 10 and 70 (p). SHP: 85, THP: 43, SHW: 11 and 41, FP: 155, Q: 95, Tanala: 238. Favourite: High Command. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. GENTLE SPY PLATE: BLACK OPAL (S. Saqlain) 1, Delhi Heights (B. Nikhil) 2, Chica Bonita (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Silver Lining (Rafique Sk.) 4. Not run: Riffa and Shazia. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 15.37s. ₹27 (w), 15, 15 and 52 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 174, SHW: 19 and 12, FP: 96, Q: 46, Tanala: 1,338. Favourite: Black Opal. Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: D. Netto.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹10, 818 (54 tkts.) & 30%: 1,317 (190 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 2,359 (22 tkts.), (ii) 31,282 (1 tkt), (iii) 131 (771 tkts.).

Mini jackpot: (i) 59,765 (1 tkt.), (ii) 1,023 (122 tkts.).

ILLNESS IN FAMILY

Cummins flies back home, expected to return for the last two Tests

Australia captain Pat Cummins has flown back home from the tour of India due to a "serious family illness" following the second Test in Delhi. The *cricket.com.au* reported that Cummins was on his way to Sydney and is expected to return to India for the remaining two games of the Border-Gavaskar trophy in Indore and Ahmedabad.

WAIT CONTINUES

Jamieson to undergo surgery, comeback delayed

New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson will have to undergo a back surgery following the recurrence of an injury which had forced him to miss competitive cricket for more than nine months. Jamieson was expected to return for Blackcaps' ongoing two-Test series against England but the wait to get back to full fitness has got longer.

THRILLER

Kolkata Thunderbolts beat Mumbai Meteors in a five-setter

Kolkata Thunderbolts scored a thrilling 12-15, 15-6, 12-15, 15-11, 15-11 victory over the Mumbai Meteors in the second season of the Prime Volleyball League at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Monday. Ashwal Rai was named the player-of-the-match for his all-round display.

HONOUR BECKONS

Slum Soccer nominated for Laureus Sport for Good Award

New Delhi-based Slum Soccer, a football project aimed at educating and elevating the homeless population, has been nominated for the Laureus Sport for Good Award. The award recognises an individual or organisation who has made a significant contribution to transforming the lives of children and young people through sport.

Smriti delights, India likely to play Australia in semifinals

The left-hander hits a career-best 87 as the Women in Blue clinch the rain-affected match by the Duckworth/Lewis method to finish the group stage with three wins from four matches

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
GQEBERHA (SOUTH AFRICA)

Classy: Smriti took on the Irish bowlers with some delectable shots. AFP

Smriti Mandhana hit a career-best 87 as India beat Ireland in a rain-affected match here on Monday to book a semi-final meeting with Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup semifinals.

Replying to India's imposing 155 for six, Ireland was 54 for two when rain ended play, handing India a five-run win by the Duckworth/Lewis method.

Mandhana was dropped four times in the outfield during a 56-ball innings which included nine fours and three sixes.

Shafali Verma made 24 and helped Mandhana put on 62 for the first wicket but both batters struggled to time the ball.

Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur, playing in her 150th T20I, became the fourth player to reach 3000 runs in the format, but lacked fluency before being dismissed for 13 off 20 balls.

Ireland made a disastrous start when Amy Hunter was run out off the first ball of the innings, attempting a second run after hitting the ball to midwicket.

Four balls later Prendergast was bowled by Renuka Thakur without scoring.

But Gaby Lewis (32 not out) and Delany (17 not out) shared a spirited unbeaten partnership of 53.

But when the rain became heavier, play was halted and eventually called off. India finished the group stage with three wins from four matches and likely meet Australia in the semifinals in Cape Town on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shafali Verma c Hunter b Delany 24 *(29b, 3x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Lewis b Prendergast 87 *(56b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Prendergast b Delany 13 *(20b)*, Richa Ghosh c Lewis b Delany 0 *(1b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues st Waldron b Kelly 19 *(12b, 3x4)*, Deepti Sharma c Dempsey b Prendergast 0 *(1b)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras: (lb-2, w-8): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-62 (Shafali, 9.3 overs), 2-114 (Harmanpreet, 15.5), 3-115 (Richa, 15.6), 4-143 (Smriti, 18.4), 5-143 (Deepti, 18.5), 6-155 (Jemimah, 19.6).

IRELAND BOWLING

Prendergast 4-0-22-2, Dempsey 3-0-27-0, Kelly 4-0-28-1, Paul 3-0-27-0, Murray 2-0-16-0, Delany 4-0-33-3.

IRELAND

Amy Hunter run out 1 *(1b)*, Gaby Lewis (not out) 32 *(25b, 5x4)*, Orla Prendergast b Renuka 0 (4b), Laura Delany (not out) 17 *(20b, 3x4)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for two wkts. in 8.2 overs): 54.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1(Hunter, 0.1 overs), 2-1 (Prendergast 0.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 2-0-10-1, Pooja 2.2-0-14-0, Shikha 2-0-14-0, Deepti 1-0-11-0, Rajeshwari 1-0-5-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Smriti.
India won by 5 runs via DLS method

Australia's performance raises more questions; former players blast team

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Dispirited lot: The Australians can do nothing but hang their heads dejectedly after the New Delhi Test against India. REUTERS

A Test team gets out in one extended session. Nine days later, it lost nine wickets in 91 minutes to suffer another humbling loss. Ironically, more embarrassing for the team in question is the fact it's World No. 1.

Like a 'fact' from Ripley's Believe-it-or-Not series, Australia's horrific tale of woes is hard to rationalise.

On pitches where India scored 400 and took a ride to recovery on its eighth-wicket stand of 114 runs – highest for the match – Australia's abject surrender in the second innings ensured closure in just eight sessions!

More than pointing to the pitches at Nagpur and Delhi, Australia may need to introspect by revisiting the chronology of events since it embarked on this tour.

Áll the talk of 'doctored pitches' in India and the subsequent preparatory 'camp' in Bengaluru projected Australia as a well-prepared team on spin-assisting pitches.

Players like Cameron Green, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood (who has since been ruled out of the final two Tests according to agency reports quoting coach Andrew McDonald after failing to get over an Achilles heel problem) carried injuries and that limited the options for skipper Pat Cummins.

The famous Aussie resolve appeared only briefly during the third-wicket stand at Nagpur before 18 wickets came India's way trading much in return.

In Delhi, Australia made 263 appear much bigger when it reduced India to 139/7. But, this joy proved too brief once Axar Patel and R. Ashwin scripted a counter-attack. In less than 24 hours, Cummins and his men were facing ridicule from their own former Test players for losing nine wickets for 48 runs!

From starting the third day in the pole position to suffering an awkward six-wicket loss in less than two sessions was dramatic.

This Australian bunch has not only hurt their sympathisers but also left the Indian supporters anticipating a possible 4-0 series win. No wonder, some former Australian cricketers expressed their disbelief on the tactics adopted by at least five players who perished attempting the sweep shot on Sunday.

"It's very hard to sweep against the spin when the ball is not bouncing. So, (whether) basics of batting and facing spin-bowling in those conditions, (we) are getting so wrong," said former skipper Michael Clarke.

Allan Border, too, was forthright. "They panicked. You can't tell me that the reverse sweep or sweeping on that sort of pitch is the ideal way of scoring runs. It's the highest-risk shot."

Ian Healy questioned Australia's pre-series preparation that did not include a tour match while the team had a two-day spin camp in Sydney and again in Bengaluru.

"Never again tell me we're not playing a tour match to begin... at least two, There's no shortcuts to Test match success."

New Zealand keeps its last-four hopes alive

Press Trust of India
PAARL

Riding on fine half-centuries from opener Suzie Bates (56) and Amelia Kerr (66), New Zealand thrashed Sri Lanka by 102 runs in the Women's T20 World Cup to spice up the semifinal qualification scenario in Group A.

The pair combined for a second-wicket partnership of 110, the White Ferns' third-highest ever at the tournament, to take the side to 162 for three before dismissing Sri Lanka for 60 in 15.5 overs on Sunday.

Second big loss

This was Sri Lanka's second big loss in the tournament and its hopes of progressing to the semifinals from the five-team group are over.

New Zealand, led by Sophie Devine, meanwhile, received a massive net run-rate (NRR) boost as it climbed to second spot in the group behind Australia.

The scores:

New Zealand 162/3 in 20 overs (Amelia Kerr 66, Suzie Bates 56) bt Sri Lanka 60 in 15.5 overs.
PoM: Amelia Kerr.

Each individual has freedom to be different, feels Sania

Straight talk: Sania wants the society to accept people who dare to do things differently instead of branding them. AFP

TENNIS

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Sania Mirza is not apologetic for being one of a kind.

A few people chose to call her a trailblazer while some labelled her a rebel. She says she is none and just lived life "on her own terms".

Splashed with mind-blowing success and achievements that no Indian female tennis player could enjoy and which are unlikely to be emulated in the imminent future, Sania has lived an inspiring life.

During a free-wheeling chat, Sania implored the society to accept differences in opinion and not brand as "villain or heroes" the people who dare to do things in their own way. "I don't think that I broke the rules. Who are these people who are making these rules and who are these people who are saying this is the norm and this is the stereotype.

"I think each individual is different and each individual should have the freedom to be different," Sania said.

The 36-year-old Indian added, "I think that's where as a society we can probably do better, a little bit where we are trying to hail people or make people the bad guys just because they are doing something differently.

"And I don't necessarily think that I was some kind of a great rule-breaker or some trendsetter. That's not what I was trying to do. I was living my life."

Sportstar Aces awards: Club of the Year nominees

The Sportstar Aces Awards are back for a fifth chapter, seeking to honour incredible performances in sports across various disciplines.

Among the many Popular Choice honours open to public voting is the coveted Club of the Year award and the nominee list is packed with super achievers from across the spectrum of sport.

Here are the nominees:

Gujarat Titans

Under the leadership of Hardik Pandya, Gujarat played like champions from the beginning, winning the IPL title on debut. Captain Hardik led from the front to guide the team to victory in front of home fans in Ahmedabad.

Gokulam Kerala FC

Gokulam Kerala FC performed well for two consecutive seasons and dominated the I-League.

It won the 2020-21 I-League to become the first-ever club from Kerala to win the title, and became the first team to defend it in 2021-22.

In doing so, Gokulam also became the first club from Kerala to qualify for the continental AFC Cup.

Hyderabad FC

HFC won the country's top football league title in the third season of the Indian Super League, after making its debut in 2019.

The quick rise to prominence makes HFC one of the most successful clubs in recent times.

Puneri Paltan

What sets this club apart from the rest in the Pro Kabaddi League is its Yuva Paltan set-up, which identifies and grooms young talent primarily from Maharashtra.

Under the leadership of coach B.C. Ramesh and captain Fazel Atrachali, a young Pune side made its maiden final but fell to Jaipur Pink Panthers in the summit clash.

Barca restores Liga lead, Griezmann earns Atletico win

Superbly taken: Griezmann took his season's league tally to seven with this strike for Atletico against Athletic. GETTY IMAGES

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski and Sergi Roberto's goals helped Barcelona beat Cadiz 2-0 and restore its eight-point lead at the top of LaLiga on Sunday.

Elsewhere Antoine Griezmann's superb strike helped Atletico Madrid earn a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao to tighten its grip on fourth place.

An inspired Ferran Torres helped Sergi Roberto to break the deadlock and Lewandowski added a second to leave Cadiz, 17th, two points above the relegation zone.

The visitors had two Roger Marti goals disallowed and made Barcelona uncomfortable at times at Camp Nou but its victory rarely seemed in doubt.

Atletico's victory over Athletic helped it cut the gap on third place Real Sociedad to two points.

The results: LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Lejeune 65) drew with Sevilla 1 (Suso 29); Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 73) bt Athletic Bilbao 0; Barcelona 2 (Sergi Roberto 43, Lewandowski 45+1) bt Cadiz 0.

Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Cabral 85) drew with Empoli 1 (Cambiaghi 29); Roma 1 (Solbakken 45) bt Verona 0; Salernitana 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Immobile 60, 69-pen); Spezia 0 lost to Juventus 2 (Kean 32, Di Maria 66).

INBRIEF

N.R. Vignesh becomes India's 80th Grandmaster

Chennai's N.R. Vignesh is India's 80th and latest Grandmaster. The 24-year-old defeated IM Ilja Schneider of Germany in the final round to win the 24th NordWest Cup at Bad Zwischenahn (Germany) and attain the GM status. Though Vignesh had completed four norms before, he couldn't cross the live rating of 2500, which he did in the final round in Germany. His younger brother Visakh became a GM in 2019. In a message to *The Hindu* on Monday, Vignesh said: "It's definitely a nice feeling to become a GM. Looking forward to achieving more in chess."

ISL final to be played at Margao on March 18

The final of the Indian Super League (ISL) football will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao on March 18, the organisers announced on Monday.

LIVE TELECAST

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 10.30 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

India sweeps mixed team gold

Rudrankksh-Narmada pair claims air rifle title while Tomar and Rhythm top air pistol event

Thrilled: Narmada and Rudrankksh, the mixed air rifle gold medallists. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

India swept the mixed air pistol and air rifle gold medals to shoot up to the top of the medals table on the second day of competition in the World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on Monday.

World champion Rudrankksh Patil and Narmada Nithin were brilliant as they beat the Hungarian pair of Eszter Denes and Istvan Peni 16-6 for the gold, in mixed air rifle, after having topped qualification with 635.8Rudnrankksh had shot 318.2 and Narmada matched him with 317.6.

Varun Tomar who had bagged the air pistol bronze, combined with Rhythm Sangwan to win the mixed air pistol gold.

The results:

Mixed air pistol: 1. India-2 (Rhythm Sangwan, Varun Tomar) 16 (583); 2. Serbia (Zorana Arunovic, Damir Mikec) 10 (582); 3. Germany (Sandra Reitz, Robin Walter) 16 (580); 5. India (Divya Subbaraju, Sarabjot Singh) 577.

Mixed air rifle: 1. India-2 (Narmada Nithin, Rudrankksh Patil) 16 (635.8); 2. Hungary (Eszter Denes, Istvan Peni) 6 (631.0); 3. Germany-2 (Lisa Mueller, Maximilian Dallinger) 16 (629.7); 7. India (Tilottama Sen, Hriday Hazarika) 628.8.

National champ Nishant Dev off to flying start

Press Trust of India
SOFIA

National champion Nishant Dev began his campaign with a commanding 5-0 win over Wang Peicheng of China in 71kg category at the prestigious Strandja Memorial international boxing tournament here on Monday.

Nishant was in cruise control mode throughout his bout, landing powerful and accurate punches.

Sunita went down fighting to Patricio Shera Ma of the USA in the 54kg category, suffering a 0-5 defeat.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Cara's ton drives Vasanthnagar Cricketers' win

Poya Cara's 129 powered Vasanthnagar Cricketers past Viveknagar Cricketers in the KSCA Group I, V Division league here.

The scores: Vasanthnagar Cricketers 318/6 in 50 overs (Poya Cara 129, Ramajan 43, Ayushman 55 n.o., Dhwaneet Rao 4/47) bt Viveknagar Cricketers 198 in 28.1 overs (V. Akash 48, Shreyas Kumar 29, Aereeona Alphen 33, Dhwaneet Rao 27, Amrith Praveen 4/52).

Youth CC 261 in 48.1 overs (Mark D' Souza 32, K. Sudhanva 75, M. Bharath 55, Kifayath Pasha 3/61) bt Kengeri Cricketers 246 in 47.4 overs (Kumar Jha 70, Muneer Ahmed 51, Bhuvan Roddam 39, Shivansh Tripathi 29, Siddharth Koul 4/53).

Bangalore United (2) 180 in 40.3 overs (Rishikesh 39, Abhijeet Singh 49 n.o., Mohammed Aimaan 41, Jaganatha Raju 5/36) bt Dolphin Cricketers 160 in 42.1 overs (Chandan Raj 36, Tarun Desai 28, R.C. Triloki 27).

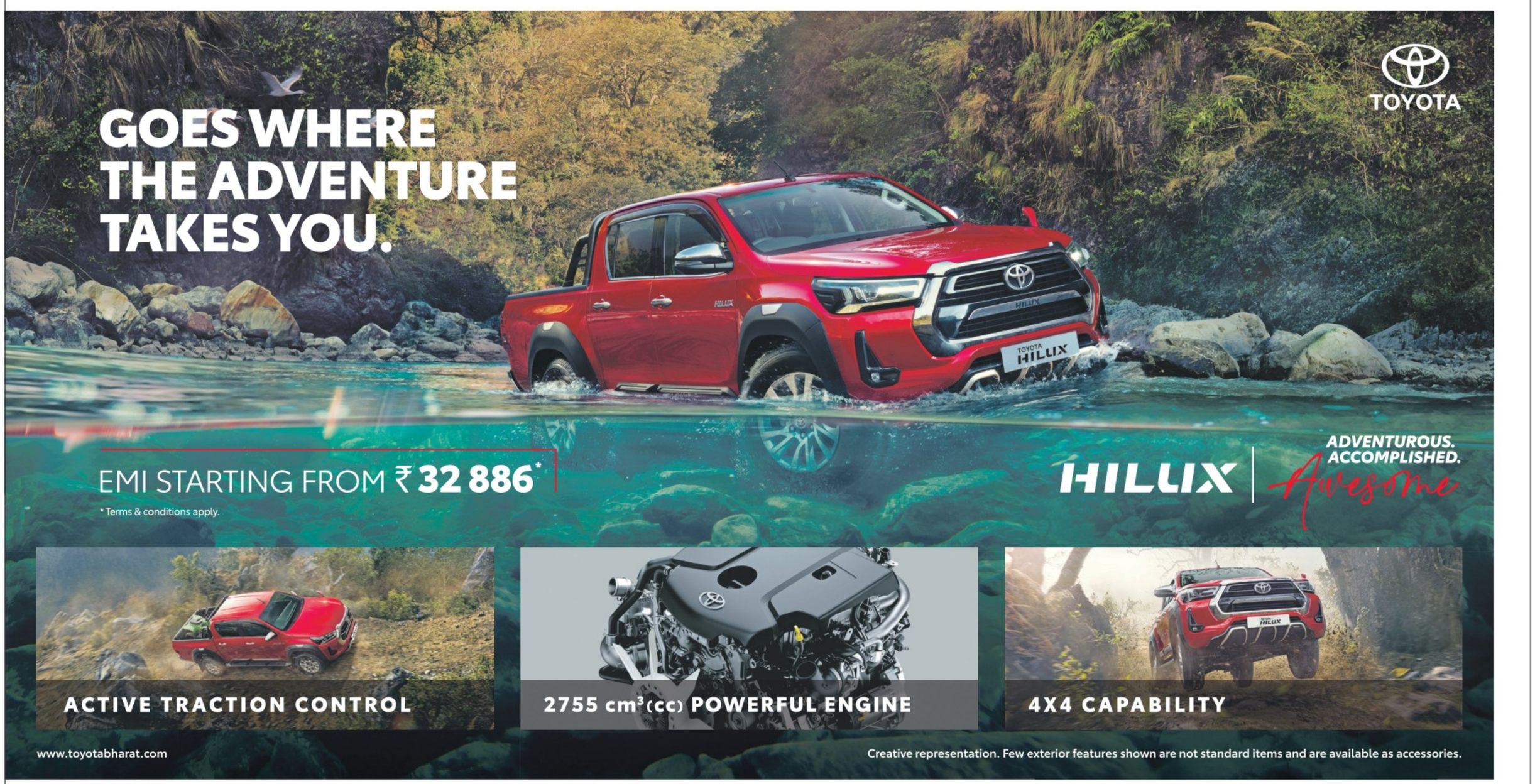
Chamarajpet CC 210 in 40.5 overs (Shiva Kumar 75, N. Prashanth 27, K.N. Nikhil 34, Hemanth Kumar 27, M.N. Ramana 3/26, D. Gagan 4/15) lost to Citizen Cultural CA 211/7 in 35.3 overs (Samit Ramesh 25, M. Vishwanathan 53, Sachin Bhat 26, Mohammed Arif 45).

Diamond CC 271 in 47.3 overs (Shrish Kumar 59, Nabhashrit 29, N.L. Likith 56, Keertan Raj 31, Poorna 4/48) bt United CC 144 in 31.5 overs (B.P. Koushik 60, S. Suvik 3/35).

Oriental CC 336/6 in 50 overs (Lakshmikar Reddy 61, Samith Prabhu 80, Barnadeep Gupta 42, Shatak Gunjal 93 n.o.) bt YMCA (3) 172 in 36.5 overs (Abhay Surya 42, T. Srivardhan 4/27).

Yuvaka Sangha CC 202 in 42.1 overs (D. Raghavendra 40, Bharath Kumar 31, Dhanu 27, Chetan Kumar 33, K.P. Bipin 3/50) lost to Sapphire CC 202/8 in 45.4 overs (Anup Kolambkar 31, Ankush Boppanna 30, Shameek Kolambkar 29 n.o. Dominic Fernandes 37).

Anekal Town 211 in 48 overs (Ajaya Surya 27 ,Srinivasa Karthikeya 39, Pavan Kumar 37 n.o., D. Pradeep 34, Chirag Jain 4/43, H.R. Jayanth 3/43) lost to Unique CC 212/9 in 45.4 overs (H.R. Jayanth 26, M.S. Chetan 48, Veeramuthu Darshan 29, Sharat Kumar 57, S. Sunil 3/42).

Young Boys (Kolar) 376/9 in 50 overs (S. Yuvaraj 87, Babu Vaibhav 49, Chirag 57 n.o., Yashu 3/66) bt Govt Arts College 94 in 29.4 overs (V. Varun 42, V. Venugopal 4/32).

Yankees CC 240 in 46.2 overs (Bhojanapu Rajaram 75, Saqlain 37, C.M. Gautam 40, Nithish Manju 43, Deepu Gupta 3/41) bt Jaidur Cricketers 166 in 38.4 overs (M.S. Sapthagiri 31, Yatish Kumar 26, Vinay Kumar 30, B.C. Devaraju 31 n.o., Nithish Manju 4/31, Chethan Williams 3/17).